SUPERMAN
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STRANGE ADVENTURES
JAN.
NO. 136
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SPARE ROBOT-PARTS
ONLY ONE OF THESE HEADS CAN HELP ME SAVE THE EARTH FROM DESTRUCTION! BUT HOW CAN I TELL WHICH ONE IT IS--WHEN I CAN'T SEE OR FEEL ANYTHING?
Featuring "THE ROBOT WHO LOST ITS HEAD!"

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ONLY $9.98 • Complete With Aerial, Earphone, and Carrying Case

Here is a beautiful, imported transistor radio with two transistors at a price that all you kids can afford. Fully assembled—nothing to build—nothing to complete, this handsome radio plays beautifully with true quality reception brought in by its sensational aerial that lets the whole gang enjoy good listening of music, sports, or any top radio program, because your calibrated tuning dial aids you in bringing in stations bright and clear.

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You can always enjoy this sensational transistor radio wherever you are, because it also has a personal earphone that lets you tune in your favorite program with complete privacy...put the plug in and only you can hear...pull the earplug out and everyone hears.

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30 Day Free Trial

Order now on a 30 Day Free Trial. If you are not 100% delighted, then simply return it for prompt refund of full purchase price. Because of the sensational low price of the transistor radio, we are forced to ask for an additional 36¢ shipping charge.

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Honor House Products Corp. Dept. CK-17
Lynbrook, N.Y.

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☐ I enclose $ 9.98 plus 36¢ shipping charge.
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NOT FANCY LUGGAGE — BUT USEFUL, PRACTICAL

You will be thrilled and delighted with the many, many uses you will find for this set. It will make a marvelous gift and your thoughtfulness will be appreciated for such a long time. Lightweight. It avoids the silly situation where the luggage weighs more than the clothing carried. When this offer was first made to us by the overseas company we couldn't believe our ears, but we were delighted when we saw it just a few days ago—and you will be too. Each piece serves a specific purpose such as vanity and cosmetic case (8"), personal Valet (10"), overnight case (12") or family size (14").

Remember, the complete price for all 4 matched pieces of luggage is only $2.98. Because of its size, we are forced to ask for an additional 63c shipping charge. Note: Due to the Federal Law, there is a 10% excise tax on all purchases of luggage. This Federal tax (30c in this instance) is turned over directly by us to the Government. We merely act as agents and in no way, benefit. Kindly add this 30c to your purchase price when ordering.

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Simply fill in the coupon and when your 4 piece matching set of luggage arrives, pay the postman only $2.98 plus C.O.D., shipping charges and excise tax. Then, even use them for 10 full days, and if you are not 100% delighted then simply return them for your full purchase price refund.

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☐ I enclose $2.98 plus 63c shipping charges and 30c Federal excise tax. Same Money Back Guarantee.
Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D., shipping charges and excise tax.

Name .....

Address .....

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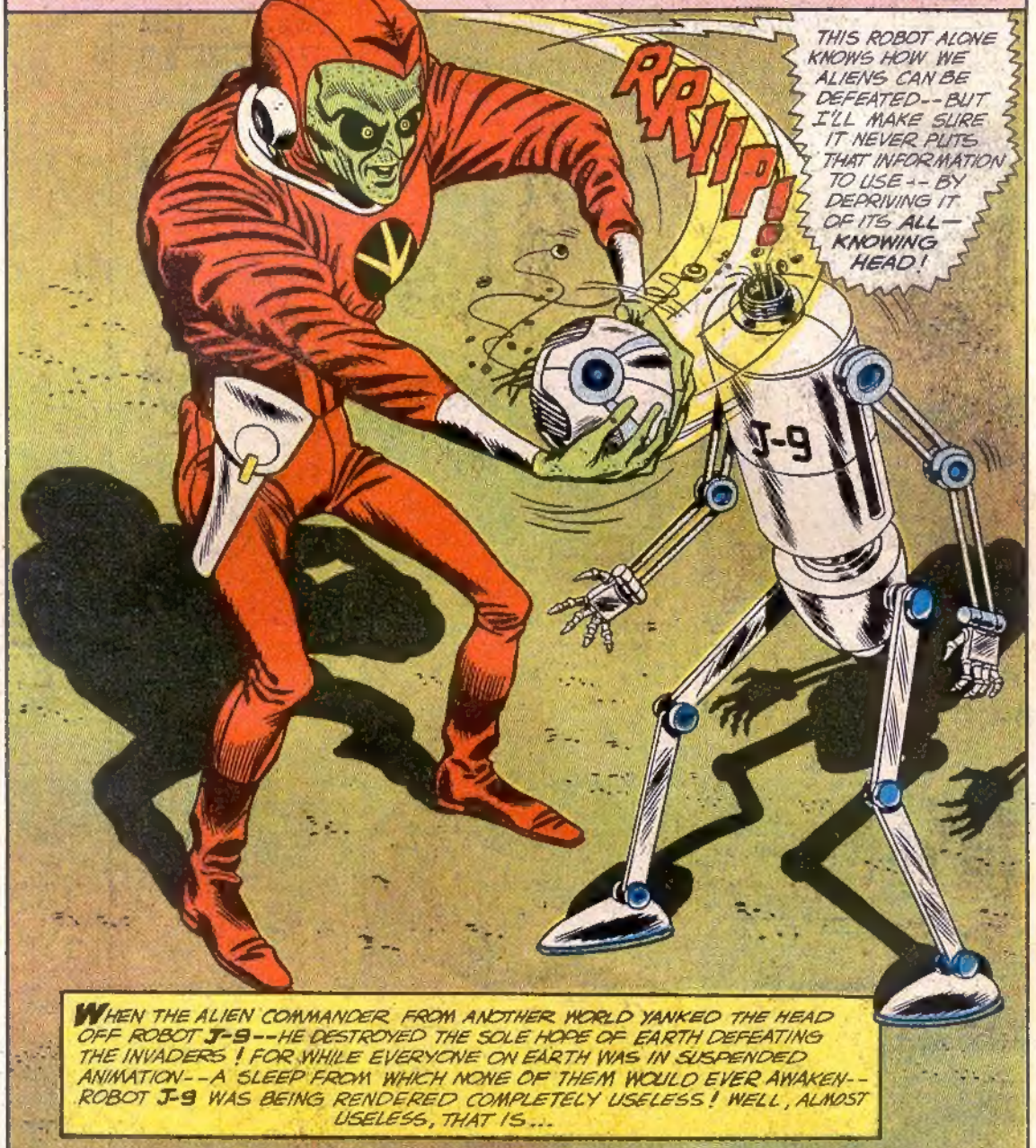
The ROBOT WHO LOST ITS HEAD!



WHEN THE ALIEN COMMANDER FROM ANOTHER WORLD YANKED THE HEAD OFF ROBOT J-9--HE DESTROYED THE SOLE HOPE OF EARTH DEFEATING THE INVADERS! FOR WHILE EVERYONE ON EARTH WAS IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION--A SLEEP FROM WHICH NONE OF THEM WOULD EVER AWAKEN--ROBOT J-9 WAS BEING RENDERED COMPLETELY USELESS! WELL, ALMOST USELESS, THAT IS...

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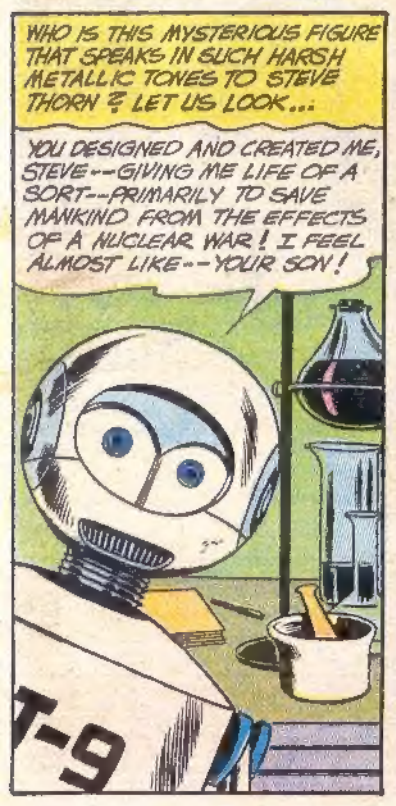
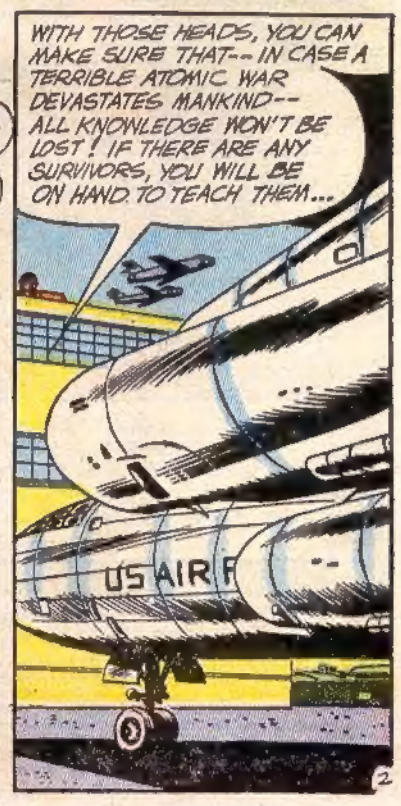
SADNESS GRIPS NUCLEAR PHYSICIST STEVE THORN AS HE BROODS OVER HIS BREAKFAST COFFEE ...
TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT, DEAR!
I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT IT! INSIDE TWO HOURS--I'LL NEVER SEE JAY AGAIN!

THE CURIOUS PART OF IT IS, ONLY FIFTY PEOPLE ON EARTH EVEN KNOW JAY EXISTS! THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM HAS BEEN TOP SECRET TO PREVENT ANY NATION FROM LEARNING ABOUT IT AND SHOOTING JAY DOWN ON SIGHT!
FINISH YOUR COFFEE, DEAR! IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO!

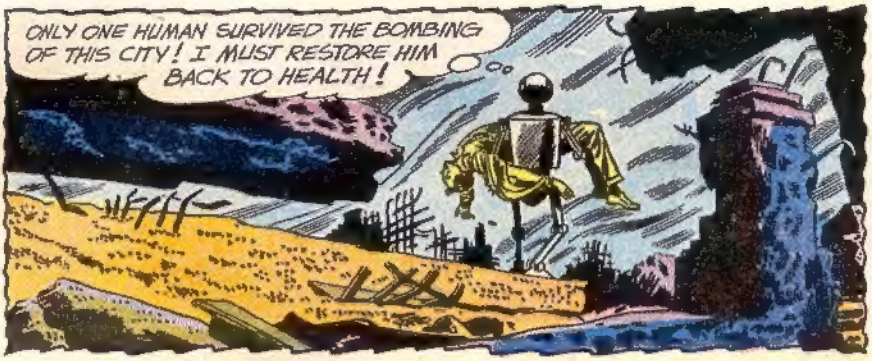
HALF AN HOUR LATER, STEVE THORN PUSHES OPEN A DOOR IN A LABORATORY AT AN AIR-FORCE BASE SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTHWEST...
I'VE COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE, JAY! TAKE-OFF TIME IS ROUGHLY NINETY MINUTES FROM NOW!
YES--AND THEN WE'LL NEVER SEE ONE ANOTHER AGAIN!


WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS FIGURE THAT SPEAKS IN SUCH HARSH METALLIC TONES TO STEVE THORN? LET US LOOK...
YOU DESIGNED AND CREATED ME, STEVE--GIVING ME LIFE OF A SORT--PRIMARILY TO SAVE MANKIND FROM THE EFFECTS OF A NUCLEAR WAR! I FEEL ALMOST LIKE--YOUR SON!
T-9

I KNOW, JAY! THE FINEST MEDICAL, LEGAL AND ENGINEERING BRAINS WORKED ON THE MANY HEADS STORED IN THE SPACE-SATELLITE WHICH WILL BE YOUR FUTURE HOME! EACH HEAD CONTAINS MANKIND'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ONE SPECIAL BRANCH OF LEARNING!

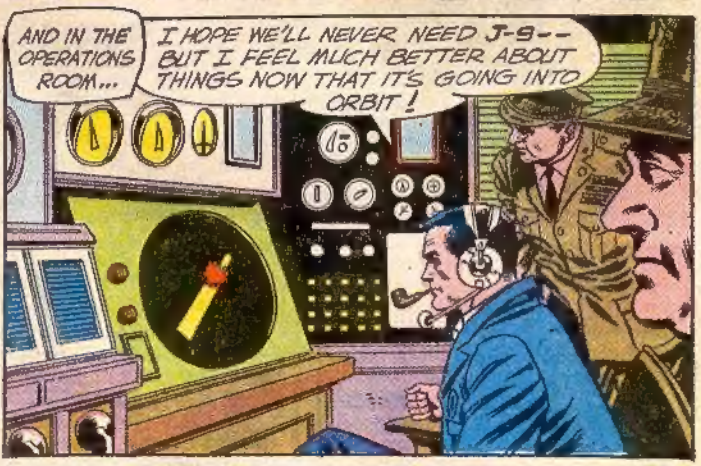

WITH THOSE HEADS, YOU CAN MAKE SURE THAT--IN CASE A TERRIBLE ATOMIC WAR DEVASTATES MANKIND--ALL KNOWLEDGE WON'T BE LOST! IF THERE ARE ANY SURVIVORS, YOU WILL BE ON HAND TO TEACH THEM...
US AIR F

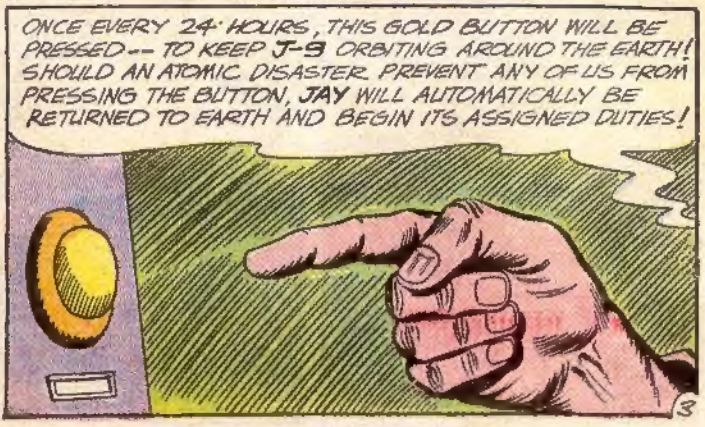
"YOU WILL BE DOCTOR--JUDGE--MECHANIC--TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL REMAIN ALIVE..."


ONLY ONE HUMAN SURVIVED THE BOMBING OF THIS CITY! I MUST RESTORE HIM BACK TO HEALTH!

"YOU WILL PREVENT HUMAN LEARNING FROM DISAPPEARING IN A RADIOACTIVE HOLOCAUST..."
BY FOLLOWING MY INSTRUCTIONS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REBUILD YOUR FACTORIES...

AT BLAST-OFF TIME, A MIGHTY ROCKET RISES SKYWARD, CARRYING A LARGE SATELLITE WHICH WILL BE THE ROBOT'S HOME IN ITS ENDLESS VOYAGE AROUND THE PLANET EARTH...
USAF


AND IN THE OPERATIONS ROOM...
I HOPE WE'LL NEVER NEED J-9--BUT I FEEL MUCH BETTER ABOUT THINGS NOW THAT IT'S GOING INTO ORBIT!


ONCE EVERY 24 HOURS, THIS GOLD BUTTON WILL BE PRESSED -- TO KEEP J-9 ORBITING AROUND THE EARTH! SHOULD AN ATOMIC DISASTER PREVENT ANY OF US FROM PRESSING THE BUTTON, JAY WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE RETURNED TO EARTH AND BEGIN ITS ASSIGNED DUTIES!

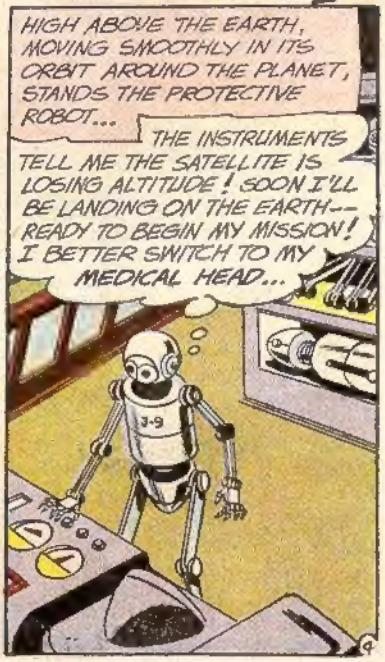
SLOWLY THE WEEKS PASS INTO MONTHS! THE MONTHS BECOME A YEAR, TWO YEARS--AND THEN ONE MORNING AS THE THORNS ARE EATING ANOTHER BREAKFAST...
GOOD GRACIOUS--HA! HA!--I'VE SUDDENLY HAD A FIT OF LAUGHING--HA! HA!--AND I CAN'T STOP!
HA! HA! HA! I FEEL THE SAME WAY! HA! HA!
COFFEE

THE LAUGHTER BECOMES PAINFUL AS IT IS CONTINUED, AND NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME, FEAR TOUCHES THE YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE...
HA! HA! THIS ISN'T NORMAL, HONEY! HA! HA! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN ON THE RADIO!
STEVE--HA! HA!--I'M SCARED!

OVER THE RADIO THEY LEARN THE FIRST HINT OF PLANETARY DISASTER...
HA! HA! AN ALIEN SPACESHIP LANDED A FEW MILES SOUTH OF LOS ANGLES EARLY THIS MORNING--HA! HA!--AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN FORMING LAUGHING GAS * FROM THE NITROGEN AND OXYGEN--HA! HA!--IN OUR ATMOSPHERE...
*Editor's Note: NITROUS OXIDE--N2O.

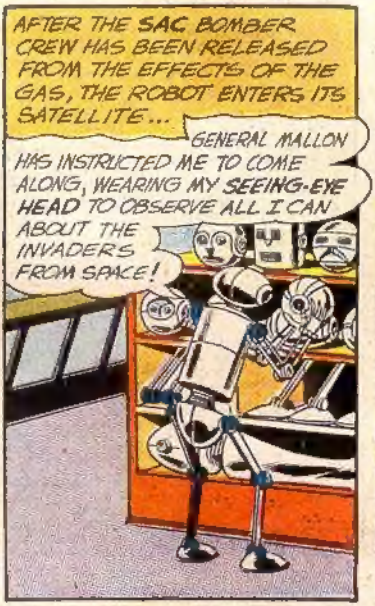
CONCERNED OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT, STEVE THORN DRIVES TO HIS SAC BASE LABORATORY WHERE...
EVERYONE IS IN A DEEP TRANCE! HA! HA! OF COURSE! AT FIRST, LAUGHING GAS--OR NITROUS OXIDE--MAKES ONE LAUGH! IT'S SOMETIMES USED AS AN ANESTHETIC BY DENTISTS! HA! HA! BUT WHEN ADMINISTERED IN LARGER AMOUNTS--HA! HA!--IT PUTS EVERYONE TO SLEEP!

STUMBLING WITH WEARINESS HE FALLS INTO A CHAIR IN HIS LABORATORY...
HA! I'M GETTING DROWSY NOW...ALL OVER THE WORLD, EVERYONE MUST BE FALLING ASLEEP TOO! ONLY J-9 WILL REMAIN AWAKE! WITHOUT ANYONE TO PUSH THAT BUTTON--IT'LL LAND AND TAKE OVER!


HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH, MOVING SMOOTHLY IN ITS ORBIT AROUND THE PLANET, STANDS THE PROTECTIVE ROBOT...
THE INSTRUMENTS TELL ME THE SATELLITE IS LOSING ALTITUDE! SOON I'LL BE LANDING ON THE EARTH--READY TO BEGIN MY MISSION! I BETTER SWITCH TO MY MEDICAL HEAD...
J-9

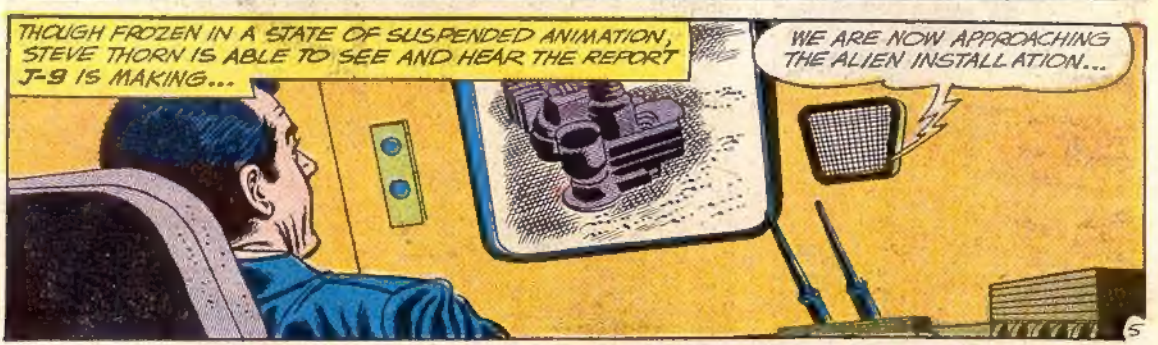
NO SOONER DOES THE ROBOT SET ITS METAL FEET ON THE GROUND THAN ITS MEDICAL HEAD BEGINS TO FUNCTION...
I'VE DETERMINED THE AIR CONTAINS AN OVERABUNDANCE OF NITROUS OXIDE! I'LL TREAT THIS AIR FORCE GENERAL--MAKE HIM IMMUNE TO THE GAS!
J-9
US AIR FORCE

AS GENERAL ORVAL MALLON RECOVERS FROM THE EFFECT OF THE GAS...
J-9! GOOD WORK! HURRY--RESTORE A CREW FOR ME! WE'VE GOT TO STRIKE BACK AT THOSE ALIENS AT ONCE!
YES, SIR!
...

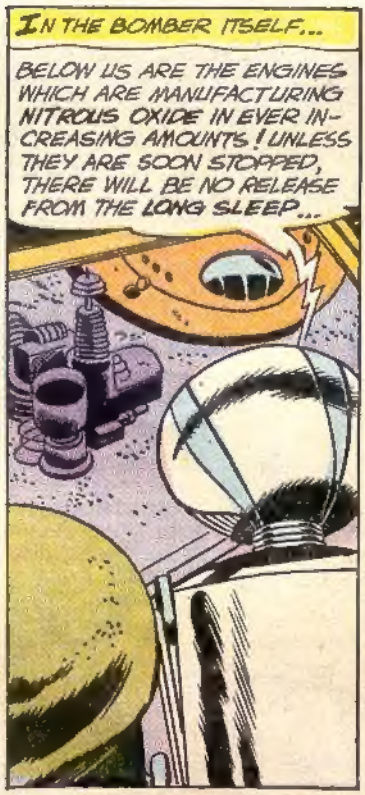

AFTER THE SAC BOMBER CREW HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS, THE ROBOT ENTERS ITS SATELLITE...
GENERAL MALLON HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO COME ALONG, WEARING MY SEEING-EYE HEAD TO OBSERVE ALL I CAN ABOUT THE INVADERS FROM SPACE!

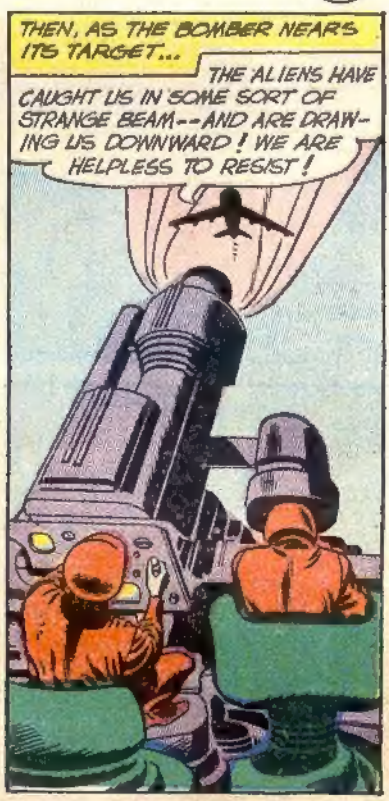
UNSCREWING ITS MEDICAL HEAD, IT DONS THE ALL-SEEING-EYE HEAD...
I HAVE BEEN SO GEARED THAT I CAN REPLACE MY HEADS AS EACH ONE, WITH ITS SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE, IS NEEDED!

SOON AFTER, THE BOMBER TAKES OFF FOR THE ALIEN "BASE"...
US AIR FORCE
THERE MAY NOT BE ANYONE AWAKE AT THE OTHER COMMAND POSTS, J-9--BUT IN CASE THERE ARE, RELAY THE INFORMATION BACK TO THEM AS WE ATTACK THE ALIENS!
YES, SIR, GENERAL!


THOUGH FROZEN IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION, STEVE THORN IS ABLE TO SEE AND HEAR THE REPORT J-9 IS MAKING...
WE ARE NOW APPROACHING THE ALIEN INSTALLATION...

MY INSTRUMENTS TELL ME THE ALIENS ARE GATHERING IMMENSE AMOUNTS OF PLATINUM -- REMOVING IT FROM THE EARTH AND FROM OBJECTS WHERE IT HAS BEEN MANUFACTURED..


IN THE BOMBER ITSELF...
BELOW US ARE THE ENGINES WHICH ARE MANUFACTURING NITROUS OXIDE IN EVER INCREASING AMOUNTS! UNLESS THEY ARE SOON STOPPED, THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE FROM THE LONG SLEEP...


THEN, AS THE BOMBER NEARS ITS TARGET...
THE ALIENS HAVE CAUGHT US IN SOME SORT OF STRANGE BEAM -- AND ARE DRAWING US DOWNWARD! WE ARE HELPLESS TO RESIST!

MOMENTS AFTER THE PLANE HAS BEEN DRAWN TO EARTH, A TRUTH-RAY IS PLAYED OVER GENERAL MALLON...
HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF THE NITROUS OXIDE OUR MACHINES ARE CREATING FROM YOUR ATMOSPHERE?
IT WAS THE ROBOT WHO DID THAT!

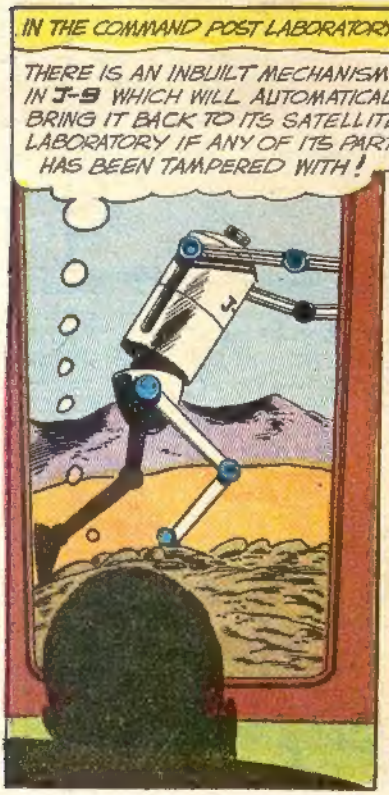
THE ROBOT CONTAINS ALL OUR PLANETARY KNOWLEDGE! IT IS EQUIPPED TO CURE US OF DISEASES, ADVISE US AS TO WHAT COURSE TO TAKE WHEN THREATENED, HELP US REBUILD OUR CITIES IF THEY ARE DESTROYED! IT IS EVEN CAPABLE OF LEARNING INFORMATION ABOUT YOU ALIENS!

SO! YOU POSSESS ALL MANKIND'S KNOWLEDGE, DO YOU? AND YOU'VE SPIED ON US! THEN LET ME HELP YOU OUT -- BY TELLING YOU ALL ABOUT US!
COMMANDER, IS THAT WISE?

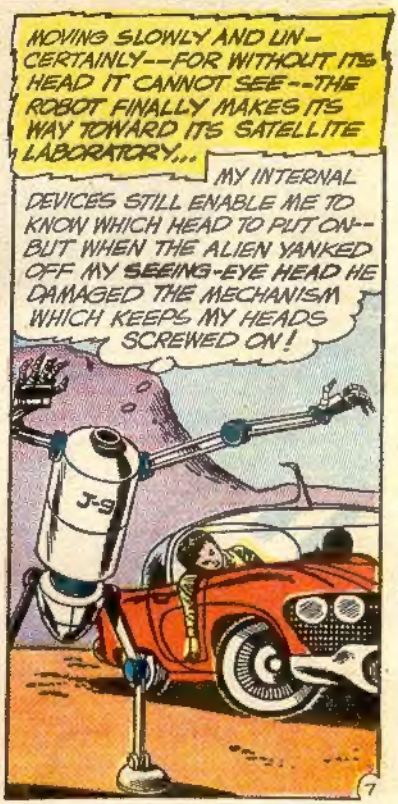
WE COME FROM A PLANET OF THE STAR-SUN ALTAIR! ACTUALLY, WE ARE VERY HELPLESS AGAINST OMEGA RADIATION! BUT YOUR PEOPLE COULDN'T BE EXPECTED TO KNOW THAT VALUABLE PIECE OF INFORMATION!
COMMANDER, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? NOW THE ROBOT CAN DEFEAT US!

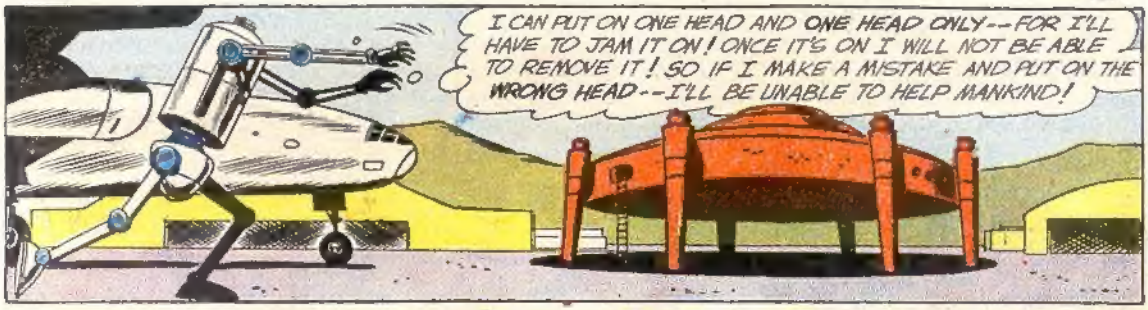
NOT WITHOUT ITS HEAD IT CAN'T! AND I'M MAKING SURE IT NEVER USES ITS HEAD AGAIN!

BLIND AND ALMOST HELPLESS, J-9 STAGGERS AWAY FROM THE ALIEN ENCAMPMENT.
I COULD HAVE DESTROYED THE ROBOT--BUT IT PLEASED ME MORE TO TELL THE ROBOT HOW TO DEFEAT US---AND THEN SEE IT HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
J-9

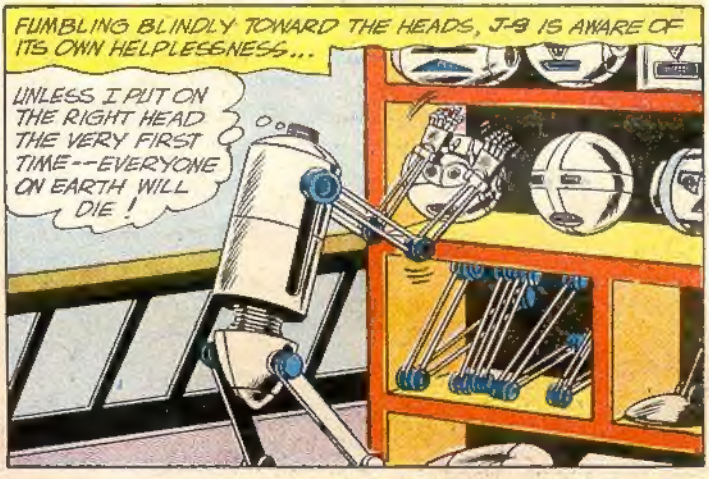

IN THE COMMAND POST LABORATORY..
THERE IS AN INBUILT MECHANISM IN J-9 WHICH WILL AUTOMATICALLY BRING IT BACK TO ITS SATELLITE LABORATORY IF ANY OF ITS PARTS HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH!

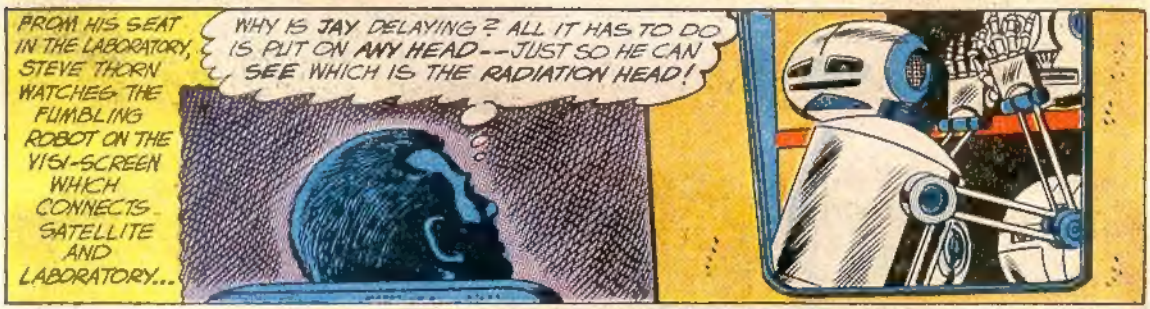
LUCKILY, THE ALIENS DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT JAY'S MULTIPLE HEADS--AND IT NOW KNOWS WHAT HEAD TO PUT ON TO DEFEAT THE ALIENS! NO HUMAN BEING CAN MOVE AGAINST THEM--BUT JAY CAN!

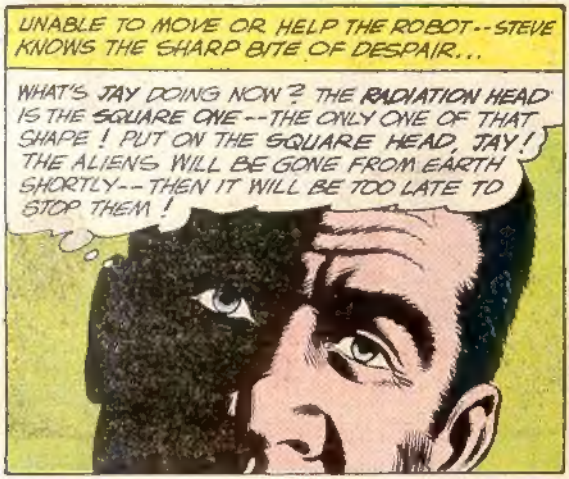

MOVING SLOWLY AND UNCERTAINLY--FOR WITHOUT ITS HEAD IT CANNOT SEE--THE ROBOT FINALLY MAKES ITS WAY TOWARD ITS SATELLITE LABORATORY...
MY INTERNAL DEVICES STILL ENABLE ME TO KNOW WHICH HEAD TO PUT ON--BUT WHEN THE ALIEN YANKED OFF MY SEEING-EYE HEAD HE DAMAGED THE MECHANISM WHICH KEEPS MY HEADS SCREWED ON!
J-9

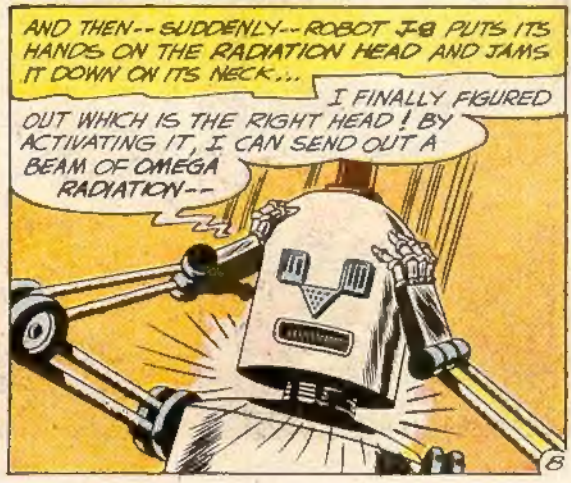

I CAN PUT ON ONE HEAD AND ONE HEAD ONLY--FOR I'LL HAVE TO JAM IT ON! ONCE IT'S ON I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REMOVE IT! SO IF I MAKE A MISTAKE AND PUT ON THE WRONG HEAD--I'LL BE UNABLE TO HELP MANKIND!

I KNOW WHERE THE HEADS ARE--BUT SINCE I CAN'T SEE, HOW WILL I DETERMINE WHICH IS THE RADIATION HEAD WHICH I MUST WEAR TO DESTROY THE ALIENS?


FUMBLING BLINDLY TOWARD THE HEADS, J-8 IS AWARE OF ITS OWN HELPLESSNESS...
UNLESS I PUT ON THE RIGHT HEAD THE VERY FIRST TIME--EVERYONE ON EARTH WILL DIE!


FROM HIS SEAT IN THE LABORATORY, STEVE THORN WATCHES THE FUMBLING ROBOT ON THE VISI-SCREEN WHICH CONNECTS SATELLITE AND LABORATORY...
WHY IS JAY DELAYING? ALL IT HAS TO DO IS PUT ON ANY HEAD--JUST SO HE CAN SEE WHICH IS THE RADIATION HEAD!


UNABLE TO MOVE OR HELP THE ROBOT--STEVE KNOWS THE SHARP BITE OF DESPAIR...
WHAT'S JAY DOING NOW? THE RADIATION HEAD IS THE SQUARE ONE--THE ONLY ONE OF THAT SHAPE! PUT ON THE SQUARE HEAD, JAY! THE ALIENS WILL BE GONE FROM EARTH SHORTLY--THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO STOP THEM!


AND THEN--SUDDENLY--ROBOT J-8 PUTS ITS HANDS ON THE RADIATION HEAD AND JAMS IT DOWN ON ITS NECK...
I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHICH IS THE RIGHT HEAD! BY ACTIVATING IT, I CAN SEND OUT A BEAM OF OMEGA RADIATION--

MOMENTS LATER THE OMEGA BEAM DESTROYS THE ALIENS AND THEIR INSTALLATIONS, AND AS IT DOES ..

JAY DID IT! AND AS HE DESTROYS THE ALIENS AND THEIR MACHINES, THE NITROUS OXIDE STARTS TO WEAR OFF US--RETURNING EVERYONE BACK TO NORMAL! BUT WHY DID JAY TAKE SO LONG BEFORE PUTTING ON THAT HEAD?

SOON J-9 IS EXPLAINING...

SINCE I COULD PUT ON ONLY ONE HEAD, IT HAD TO BE THE RIGHT ONE! DEPRIVED OF ALL MY SENSES--EXCEPT THAT OF TOUCH, AND THEN ONLY IN A RUDIMENTARY FORM--I COULDN'T "FEEL" WHICH WAS THE LONE SQUARE HEAD--UNTIL I GOT THE IDEA OF MOVING THEM!

ONE BY ONE, I PUSHED EACH HEAD AGAINST THE REAR OF THE SHELF! THE ROUND ONES HIT THE WALL AND ROLLED BACK--HITTING MY WAITING HAND! THE SQUARE ONE COULDN'T REBOUND--SO I KNEW THAT WAS THE ONE TO PUT ON!

IN THE UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY, AFTER THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD HAD BEEN FREED OF THE GASES WHICH MADE THEM HELPLESS...

WE HAVE LEARNED OUR LESSON! AT LAST EVERY EARTH-NATION WILL TRULY UNITE TO FIGHT AGAINST INVADERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD RATHER THAN AGAINST OURSELVES!

The End

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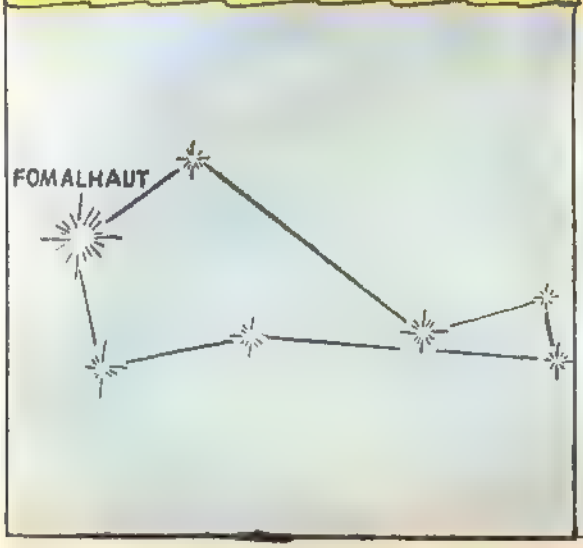
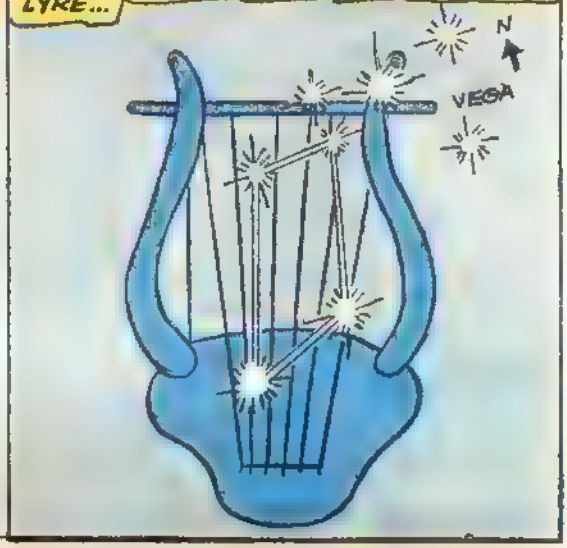


THE ARRANGEMENT OF CERTAIN STARS IN THE NORTHERN SKIES SEEMINGLY FORMS A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT KNOWN AS A ***LYRE***, HENCE THE STAR CONSTELLATION WAS CALLED THE ***LYRA***, THE GREEK WORD FOR ***LYRE***...



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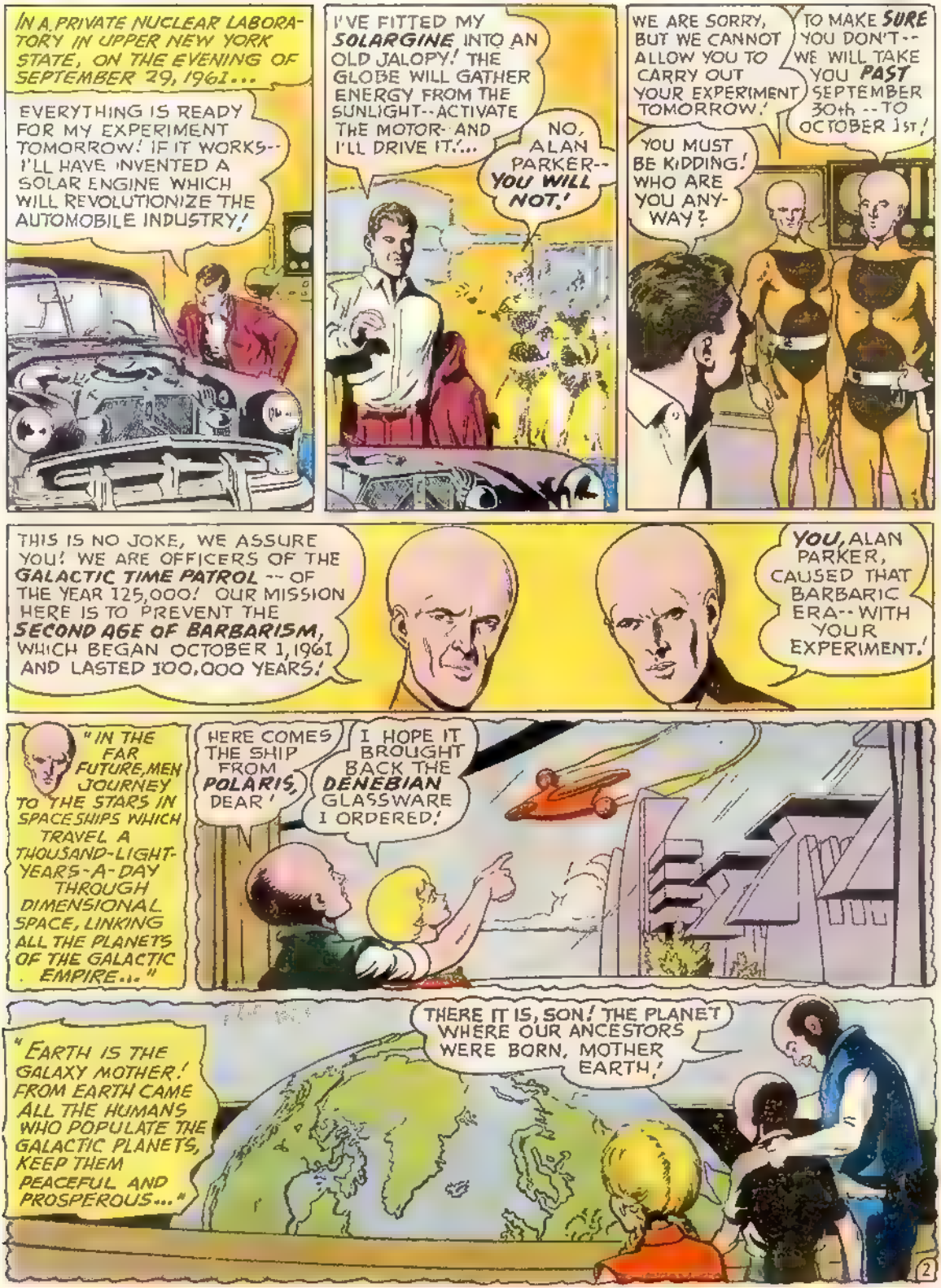
LOST-- 100,000 YEARS!

100,000 YEARS FROM NOW, MEN WILL DISCOVER THE WAY TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE LONG, DUSTY CORRIDORS OF TIME. THEIR FIRST TASK WHEN TRAVELING BACK INTO THE **PAST,** WILL BE TO RETURN TO SEPTEMBER 29, 1961-- AND PREVENT A TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE! UNWITTINGLY, HOWEVER, THE **TIME PATROL** TEAM WILL LEARN THAT THEY HAVE UNLEASHED A MUCH MORE TERRIBLE MENACE-- AND ARE UNABLE TO STOP IT!


IN A PRIVATE NUCLEAR LABORATORY IN UPPER NEW YORK STATE, ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 1961...
EVERYTHING IS READY FOR MY EXPERIMENT TOMORROW! IF IT WORKS-- I'LL HAVE INVENTED A SOLAR ENGINE WHICH WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY!
I'VE FITTED MY SOLARGINE INTO AN OLD JALOPY! THE GLOBE WILL GATHER ENERGY FROM THE SUNLIGHT--ACTIVATE THE MOTOR--AND I'LL DRIVE IT!...
NO, ALAN PARKER-- YOU WILL NOT!
WE ARE SORRY, BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR EXPERIMENT TOMORROW!
TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T-- WE WILL TAKE YOU PAST SEPTEMBER 30th --TO OCTOBER 1st!
YOU MUST BE KIDDING! WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
THIS IS NO JOKE, WE ASSURE YOU! WE ARE OFFICERS OF THE GALACTIC TIME PATROL -- OF THE YEAR 125,000! OUR MISSION HERE IS TO PREVENT THE SECOND AGE OF BARBARISM, WHICH BEGAN OCTOBER 1, 1961 AND LASTED 100,000 YEARS!
YOU, ALAN PARKER, CAUSED THAT BARBARIC ERA--WITH YOUR EXPERIMENT!
"IN THE FAR FUTURE, MEN JOURNEY TO THE STARS IN SPACESHIPS WHICH TRAVEL A THOUSAND-LIGHT-YEARS-A-DAY THROUGH DIMENSIONAL SPACE, LINKING ALL THE PLANETS OF THE GALACTIC EMPIRE..."
HERE COMES THE SHIP FROM POLARIS, DEAR!
I HOPE IT BROUGHT BACK THE DENEBIAN GLASSWARE I ORDERED!
"EARTH IS THE GALAXY MOTHER! FROM EARTH CAME ALL THE HUMANS WHO POPULATE THE GALACTIC PLANETS, KEEP THEM PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS..."
THERE IT IS, SON! THE PLANET WHERE OUR ANCESTORS WERE BORN, MOTHER EARTH!

"WITH PEACE IN OUR TIME, MEN'S MINDS ARE FREE TO TURN TO OTHER PROBLEMS! WE ARE ABLE TO TRAVEL AHEAD INTO THE YEAR **ONE MILLION,** TO PREVENT CALAMITIES, TO MAKE SURE NO WAR WILL INTERRUPT THE **LONG PEACE...**"

SINCE YOU WON'T GIVE UP YOUR MAD SCHEME TO BECOME GALACTIC DICTATOR, **SVAL GOR,** MY ORDERS ARE TO STUN AND IMPRISON YOU FOR PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT!

"OCCASIONALLY WE ARE ON HAND TO ASSIST A LONELY ASTEROID MINER WHO NEEDS HELP TO DISCOVER A VITALLY NEEDED ELEMENT..."

WE FOUND IT! **TLEKINITE!** AND EVERYBODY SAID IT WAS ONLY A LEGEND!

HE DOESN'T KNOW A **TIME PATROL** AGENT HELPED HIM FIND IT! THAT **TLEKINITE** WILL CURE DISEASE BY REJUVENATING THE BODY CELLS!

"AND--WHEN WE CANNOT PREVENT A WAR--WITH AN ALIEN RACE, THAT IS, THE **TIME PATROL** IS ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE..."

ONE MORE SHOT AND I'LL BRING THE INVADER DOWN IN DUST!

ALL THIS YOU WOULD **DELAY** US FROM ACHIEVING BY BRINGING ON THE **SECOND BARBARIC ERA!**

THAT IS WHY WE MUST SKIP YOU A DAY PAST SEPTEMBER 30th!

WHEW! I UNDERSTAND! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING **ELSE** I HAD TO DO TOMORROW! NOT JUST THE EXPERIMENT--SOMETHING ELSE ALMOST AS IMPORTANT!

NOTHING CAN BE AS IMPORTANT AS THAT EXPERIMENT, ALAN PARKER!

IT IS RANKED AS ONE OF THE MAJOR TRAGEDIES OF EARTH-BOUND MANKIND! YOU SEE, IN OUR WORLD WE HAVE SKYSCRAPERS FILLED WITH ELECTRONIC NUCLEOCOMPUTERS!

"ONLY RECENTLY WE LEARNED BY THE HELP OF THOSE COMPUTERS THAT THE **SECOND AGE OF BARBARISM** MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED..."

A MAN NAMED ALAN PARKER--LIVING IN THE YEAR 1961--CAUSED THE BARBARISM WHICH DELAYED OUR GALACTIC ERA BY 100,000 YEARS!

WHY DON'T WE GO INTO THE PAST AND STOP HIM FROM CAUSING THIS TRAGIC EVENT?

"THERE WAS A SHARP DEBATE IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION AT THE **GALACTIC CONGRESS**..."

BY INTERFERING WITH THE PAST--WE MAY CAUSE A GREATER CALAMITY!

AND YET--BY PREVENTING THE **SECOND BARBARIC AGE**--WE MAY ENABLE OUR CIVILIZATION TO REACH ITS PRESENT STATE 100,000 YEARS SOONER!

"EVERYONE LISTENED TO WISE OLD HERM DENARDUS--THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG--WHEN HE ROSE TO SPEAK..."

ALL PROGRESS DEMANDS A RISK! THE WRIGHT BROTHERS RISKED THEIR LIVES WHEN THEY FLEW THE FIRST AIRPLANE! WHEN THE ATOM BOMB WAS FIRST EXPLODED, MEN WONDERED IF IT WOULD CAUSE A CHAIN REACTION AND DESTROY THE WORLD...

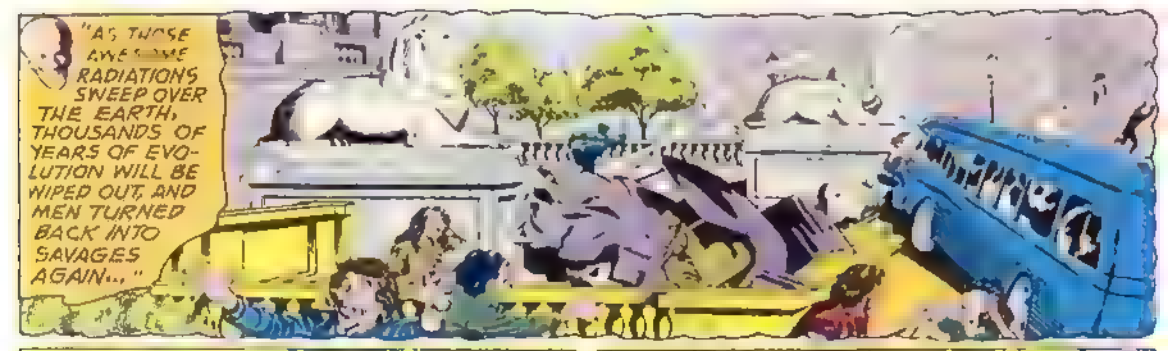
"A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND BY A NARROW MARGIN IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND TWO **TIME PATROLMEN** BACK TO 1961, WHICH WAS THE LIMIT OF OUR TIME-TRAVELING INTO THE PAST..."

YOU CAN GO BACK THAT FAR IN TIME ONLY ONCE! YOUR MISSION MUST BE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE WE'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE! EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO PARKER!

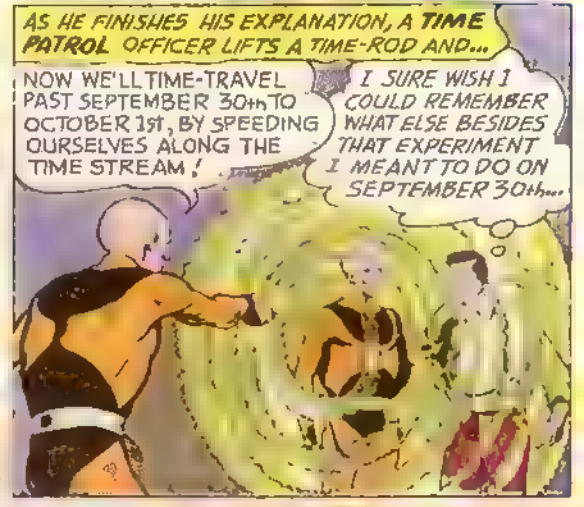
"IT IS NOW TIME FOR THAT EXPLANATION, ALAN PARKER! UNKNOWN TO YOU, THERE WILL BE VIOLENT SOLAR PROMINENCES TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 30, WHEN CORONAL STREAMERS WILL SHOOT UPWARD FROM YOUR SUN..."

"THE TITANIC ENERGIES RELEASED BY THOSE SUNBURSTS WILL OVERLOAD YOUR **SOLARGINE**, CAUSING IT TO EMIT DEADLY RADIATIONS..."

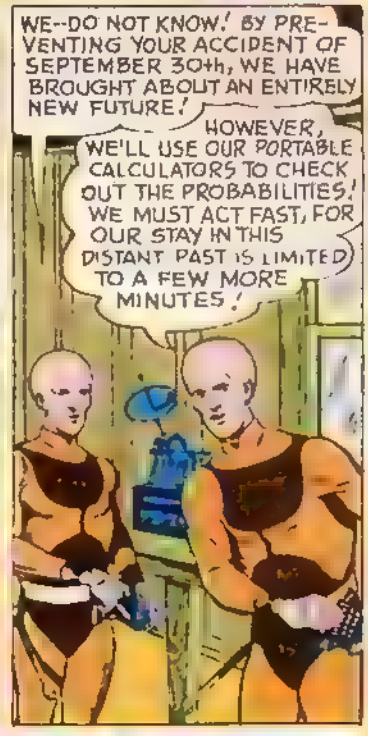
WHAT HAPPENED? MY FEATURES ARE CHANGING!

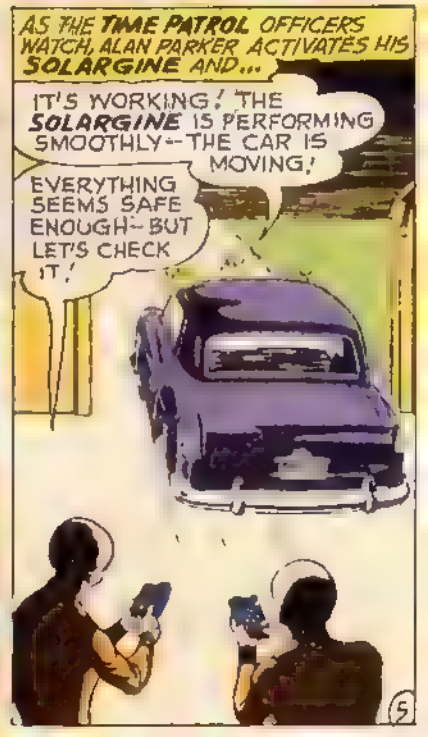

"AS THOSE AWESOME RADIATIONS SWEEP OVER THE EARTH, THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION WILL BE WIPED OUT, AND MEN TURNED BACK INTO SAVAGES AGAIN..."

"MANKIND WILL REVERT TO HIS BARBARIC PAST AND FOR 100,000 YEARS LIVE LIKE THE CAVE PEOPLE THEY HAD BECOME, AMONG THE RELICS OF THEIR ONCE GLORIOUS CIVILIZATION..."


AS HE FINISHES HIS EXPLANATION, A TIME PATROL OFFICER LIFTS A TIME-ROD AND...
NOW WE'LL TIME-TRAVEL PAST SEPTEMBER 30th TO OCTOBER 1st, BY SPEEDING OURSELVES ALONG THE TIME STREAM!
I SURE WISH I COULD REMEMBER WHAT ELSE BESIDES THAT EXPERIMENT I MEANT TO DO ON SEPTEMBER 30th...

ABRUPTLY THE TIME-ROD SHUTS OFF AND...
IT IS NOW OCTOBER 1st! THE ACCIDENT WHICH ORIGINALLY PLUNGED THE WORLD INTO BARBARISM FOR 100,000 YEARS WILL NOT OCCUR BECAUSE NO SOLAR EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 1st!
THEN IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO CARRY OUT MY EXPERIMENT NOW?


WE--DO NOT KNOW! BY PREVENTING YOUR ACCIDENT OF SEPTEMBER 30th, WE HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT AN ENTIRELY NEW FUTURE!
HOWEVER, WE'LL USE OUR PORTABLE CALCULATORS TO CHECK OUT THE PROBABILITIES! WE MUST ACT FAST, FOR OUR STAY IN THIS DISTANT PAST IS LIMITED TO A FEW MORE MINUTES!


AS THE TIME PATROL OFFICERS WATCH, ALAN PARKER ACTIVATES HIS SOLARGINE AND...
IT'S WORKING! THE SOLARGINE IS PERFORMING SMOOTHLY--THE CAR IS MOVING!
EVERYTHING SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH--BUT LET'S CHECK IT!

SUDDENLY THE CAR RISES SLOWLY INTO THE AIR, MUCH TO THE AMAZEMENT OF ALAN PARKER AND THE GRIM DISMAY OF THE **TIME PATROLMEN...**

HEYY! HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?

GREAT SOL! WE DIDN'T FIGURE ON THIS! SOMEHOW HE'S FOUND A WAY TO NEGATE THE FORCE OF GRAVITY!

WITH FLYING FINGERS, THE OFFICERS FROM THE YEAR 125,000 WORK THEIR PORTABLE CALCULATORS...

OHH--THIS IS CATASTROPHIC! HE HASN'T **NEGATED** GRAVITY--HE'S FOUND A WAY TO **RELEASE** IT!

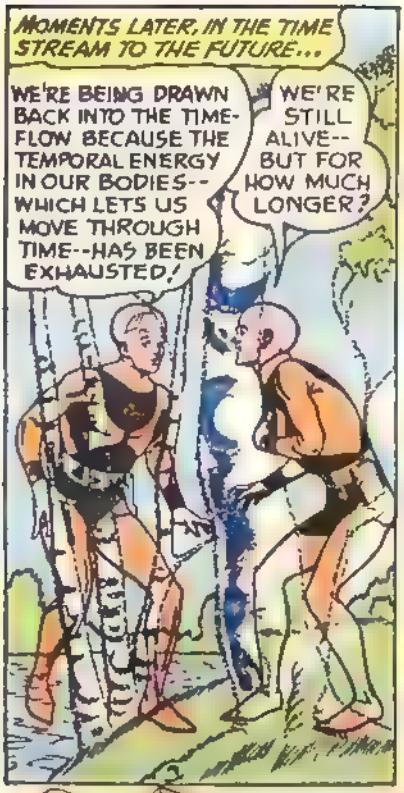
AND IT'S ESCAPING INTO SPACE! ONCE IT HAS ESCAPED--EARTH WILL HAVE **ZERO GRAVITY!**

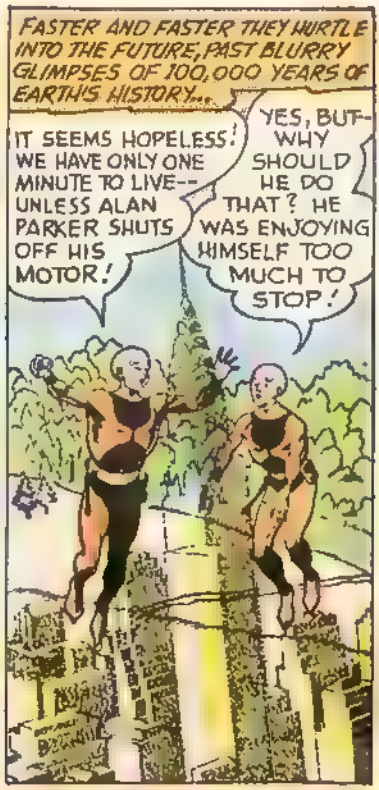
"IF THAT HAPPENS, EVERY LIVING EARTH CREATURE--AND ALL OBJECTS NOT FASTENED SECURELY TO THE PLANET--WILL GO FLYING SPACEWARD IN FREE FALL, AND PERISH...

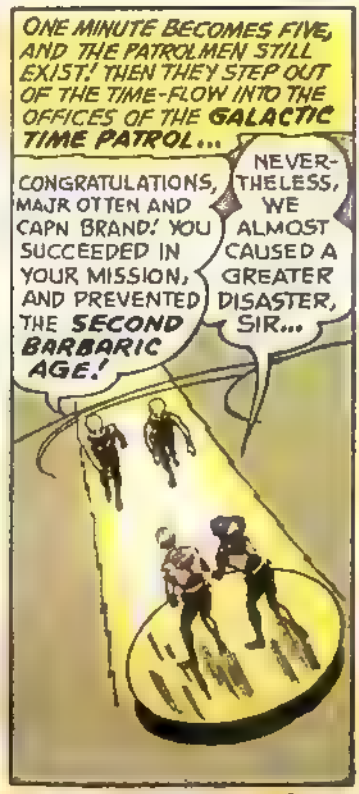
"MANKIND WILL DIE! OUR FUTURISTIC, GALACTIC CIVILIZATION AND WE OURSELVES WILL CEASE TO EXIST--!"

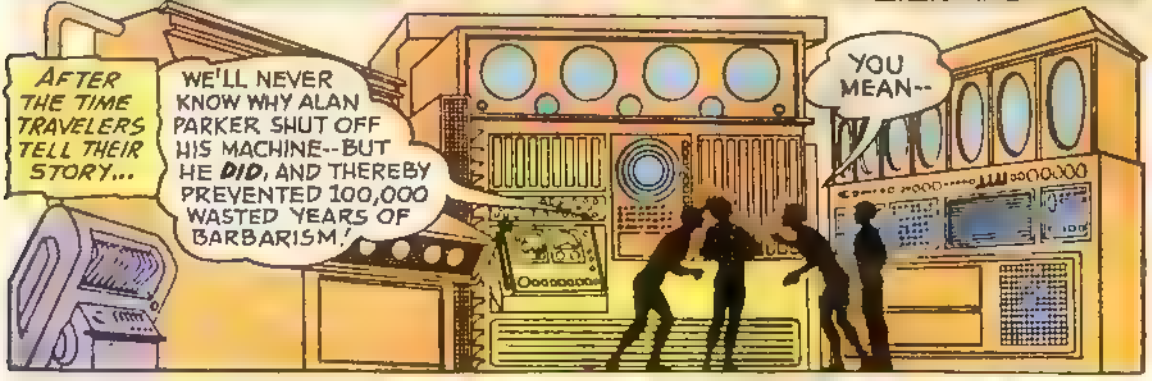
STOP HIM! WARN HIM THAT UNLESS HE SHUTS OFF HIS MOTOR IN **ONE MINUTE**--THE RACE OF MEN WILL BE WIPED OUT!

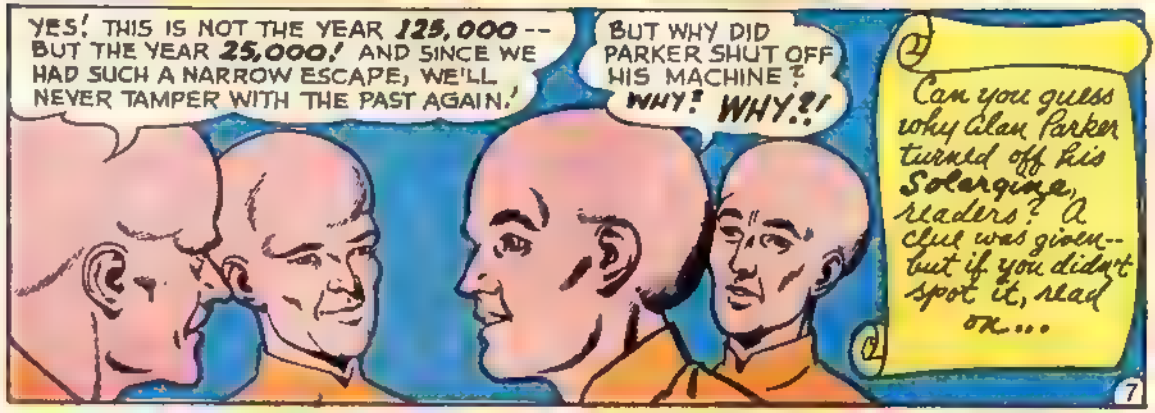
TOO LATE! WE'RE STARTING TO RETURN TO OUR FUTURE ERA--IF IT STILL EXISTS!


MOMENTS LATER, IN THE TIME STREAM TO THE FUTURE...
WE'RE BEING DRAWN BACK INTO THE TIME-FLOW BECAUSE THE TEMPORAL ENERGY IN OUR BODIES--WHICH LETS US MOVE THROUGH TIME--HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED!
WE'RE STILL ALIVE--BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER?


FASTER AND FASTER THEY HURTLE INTO THE FUTURE, PAST BLURRY GLIMPSES OF 100,000 YEARS OF EARTH'S HISTORY...
IT SEEMS HOPELESS! WE HAVE ONLY ONE MINUTE TO LIVE--UNLESS ALAN PARKER SHUTS OFF HIS MOTOR!
YES, BUT--WHY SHOULD HE DO THAT? HE WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF TOO MUCH TO STOP!


ONE MINUTE BECOMES FIVE, AND THE PATROLMEN STILL EXIST! THEN THEY STEP OUT OF THE TIME-FLOW INTO THE OFFICES OF THE GALACTIC TIME PATROL...
CONGRATULATIONS, MAJR OTTEN AND CAPN BRAND! YOU SUCCEEDED IN YOUR MISSION, AND PREVENTED THE SECOND BARBARIC AGE!
NEVERTHELESS, WE ALMOST CAUSED A GREATER DISASTER, SIR...


AFTER THE TIME TRAVELERS TELL THEIR STORY...
WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHY ALAN PARKER SHUT OFF HIS MACHINE--BUT HE DID, AND THEREBY PREVENTED 100,000 WASTED YEARS OF BARBARISM!
YOU MEAN--


YES! THIS IS NOT THE YEAR 125,000--BUT THE YEAR 25,000! AND SINCE WE HAD SUCH A NARROW ESCAPE, WE'LL NEVER TAMPER WITH THE PAST AGAIN!
BUT WHY DID PARKER SHUT OFF HIS MACHINE? WHY! WHY?!
Can you guess why Alan Parker turned off his Solargine, readers? A clue was given--but if you didn't spot it, read on...

SECONDS AFTER THE MEN FROM THE FUTURE FADED BACK INTO THE TIME STREAM, ALAN PARKER RIDES HIS FLYING AUTO THROUGH THE AIR UNTIL...

THIS IS GREAT FUN! I THINK I'LL AIR-DRIVE DOWN TO MY HOUSE AND LET MY WIFE SEE-- **OOPS!** I JUST REMEMBERED!

NOW I KNOW WHAT IT WAS I WANTED TO DO ON SEPTEMBER 30th THAT WAS SO IMPORTANT! I'D BETTER SHUT OFF THE **SOLARGINE** AND LAND BEFORE A POLICEMAN SEES ME! BESIDES, I REALLY OUGHT TO MAKE FURTHER CHECKS ON THIS STRANGE POWER I'VE UNLEASHED! I MIGHT EVEN DISCOVER--SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT IT!

THERE! NOW IT'S OFF! BUT THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! IF A POLICEMAN HAD SEEN ME AND FLAGGED ME DOWN--HE'D HAVE FOUND OUT I WAS DRIVING **WITHOUT A LICENSE!**

MY DRIVER'S LICENSE EXPIRED SEPTEMBER 30th--AND SINCE THOSE **TIME PATROL** OFFICERS MADE ME SKIP OVER THAT DAY--I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO RENEW IT!

OPERATOR'S RENEWAL LICENSE STUB
ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 30, 1961
ALAN PARKER
Alan Parker

The End

For The VERY BEST in COMICS READING

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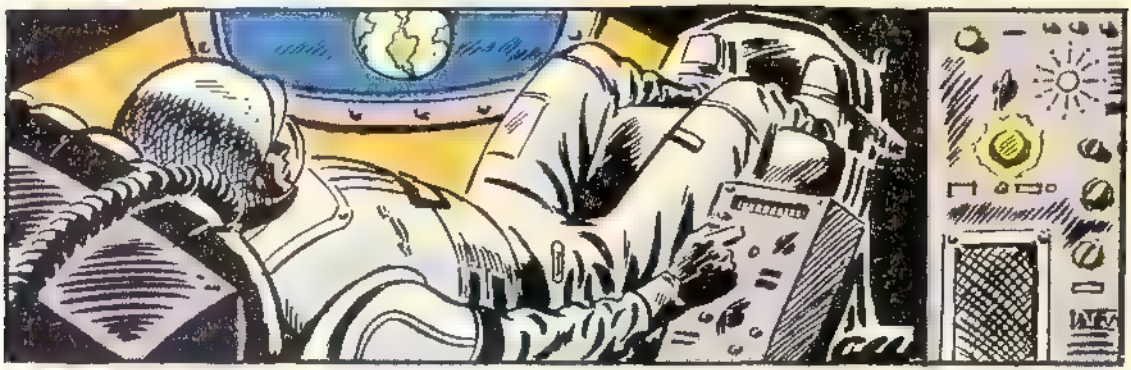
SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



Dear Science Editor: Please explain the difference in meaning between the terms "Positive G" and "Negative G" in connection with rocket-travel.

J. B., Anaheim, Cal.

Dear J. B.: "Positive G" occurs during acceleration of a rocket, when the astronaut is in a position so that the force of inertia acts on him in a head-to-foot direction (that is, the footward inertial force produced by a headward acceleration). "Negative G" is simply the opposite—during an acceleration, the astronaut is in a position so that the force of inertia acts on him in a foot-to-head direction (the headward inertial force produced by a footward acceleration).

Science Editor

• • •

Dear Science Editor: What causes the "tap-tap" sound heard when traveling in a railroad?

A. L., Austin, Texas

Dear A. L.: As you know, heat causes metals to expand and cold causes them to contract. Although small, these variations are very important and consequently expansion and contraction have to be allowed for in engineering undertakings. Thus, engineers make allowance for expansion in steam pipes by inserting a curved or U-shaped section. This bends easily and so gives the necessary margin of movement.

For the same reason, railway lines are laid with small spaces, called "expansion joints," between the ends of the rail lengths, for there may be an expansion of as much as 1/4 inch in a 60-foot rail. In passing over these spaces the wheels of the train make the familiar "tap-tap" sound. On a cold day when the rails are contracted and the spaces at their widest, the tapping of the wheels is more noticeable than on a hot summer day when the rails are practically continuous lengths.

Since we're on this subject, let us say that streetcar rails are welded together at the joints to form continuous lengths. These rails are sunk in the roadway and surrounded by concrete and granite blocks, so that they are better protected from the changes in temperature to which the unprotected railway rails are exposed. Similarly, telegraph wires tightly stretched from post to post in winter appears to "sag" in summer because the rise in temperature causes them to stretch. The expansion effect is more noticeable in large bridges. Allowance is generally made by mounting the girders on rollers to allow them to expand and contract freely.

Science Editor

• • •

Dear Science Editor: I'm a high school biology student and I can't see the sense in using Latin names for plant and animal species. What's the reason—if any—for making school-life tough for us?

C. C., Baton Rouge, La.

Dear C. C.: Since the study of biology is an international project, which entails the interchange of information among all nations, it has been agreed to use the same overall system of naming, and to follow the same rules in classifying living things. Botanists and zoologists have been holding friendly international conferences for more than 50 years and all scientific papers on classification, no matter in what language, print also the international Latin names of the plants or animals.

Science Editor

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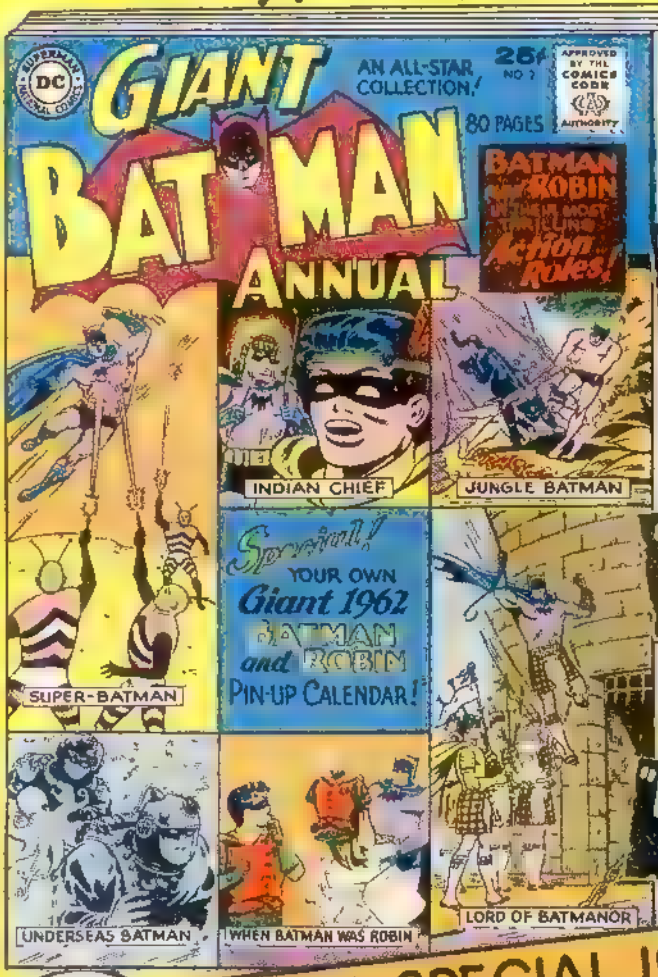

"The JUNGLE BATMAN!"

"BATMAN, INDIAN CHIEF!"

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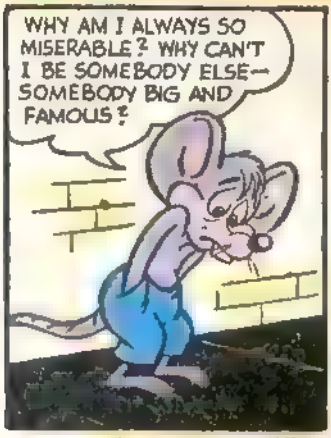
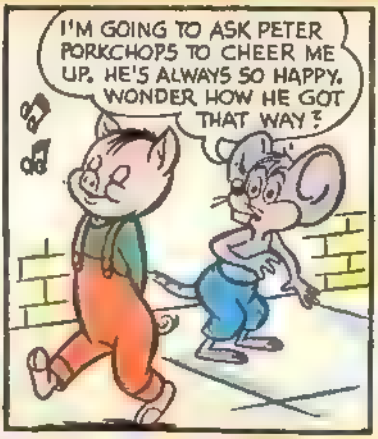
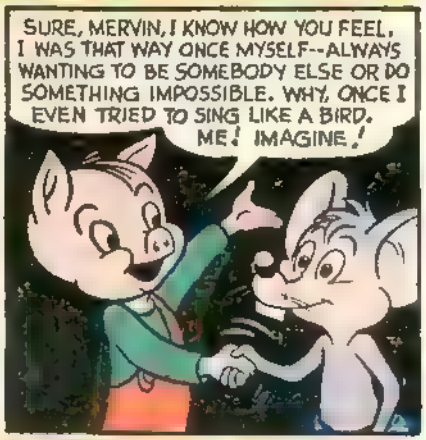
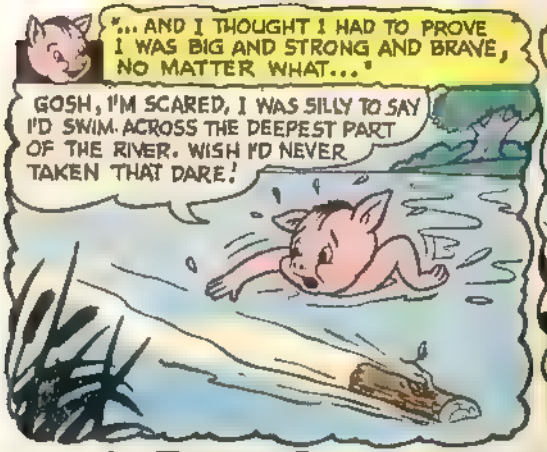
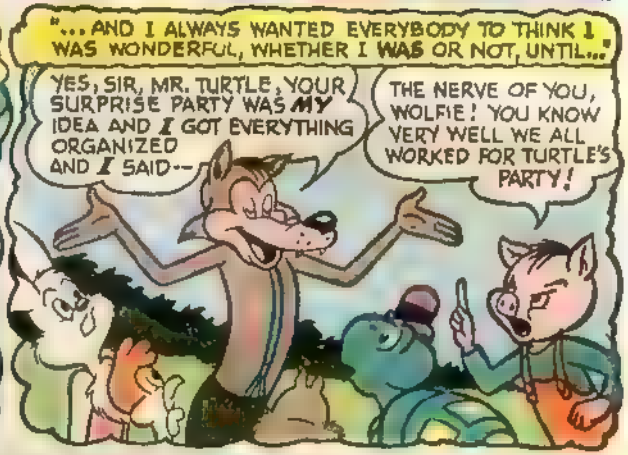
PETER PORKCHOPS in "The SECRET of the HAPPY PIG!"

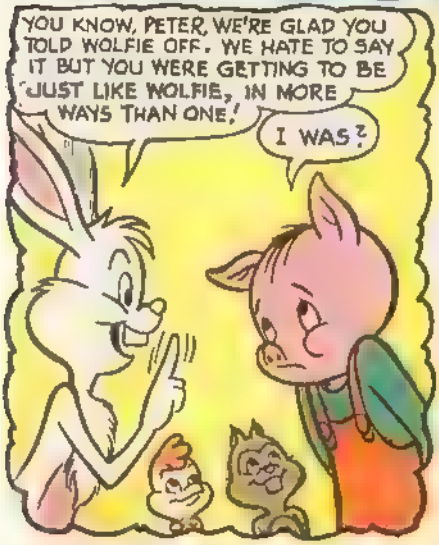


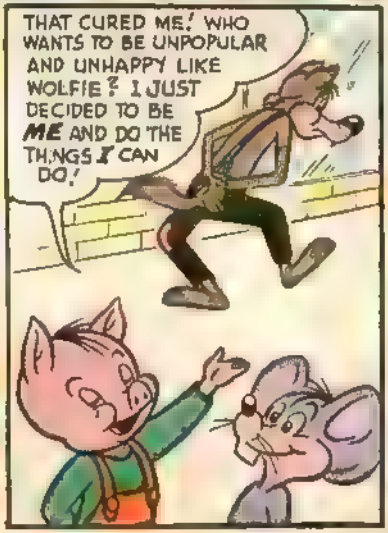












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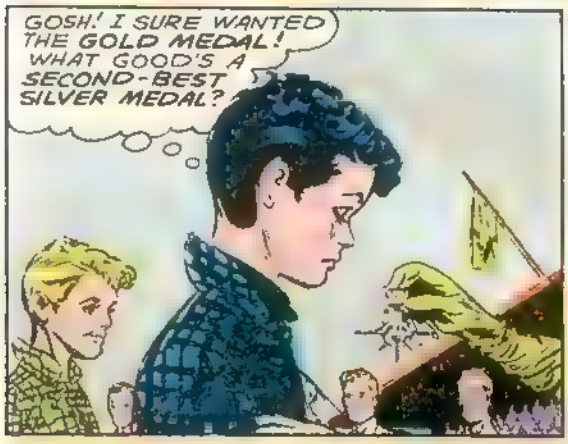
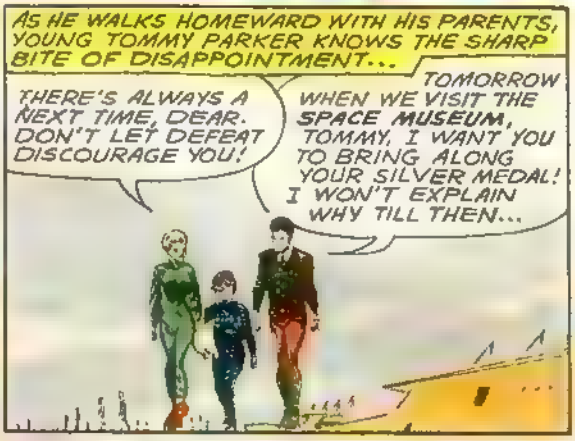
MIKE DILLON WAS THE MOST-DECORATED OFFICER IN THE **STAR PATROL** OF THE 25TH CENTURY, BUT EVERY ONE OF HIS MEDALS WAS OF **SILVER!** ALWAYS HE HAD COME IN **SECOND-BEST**, ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE HAD BEATEN HIM IN COMPLETING AN ASSIGNED MISSION! THEN HIS SUPERIORS SENT HIM INTO DEEP SPACE TO FIND THE LOST PLANET OF A RACE WHICH HAD DIED OUT A MILLION YEARS AGO -- WHERE HE LEARNED THAT UNLESS HE FINISHED **FIRST** IN A RACE AGAINST TIME -- HIS UNIVERSE WAS DOOMED TO PERISH!

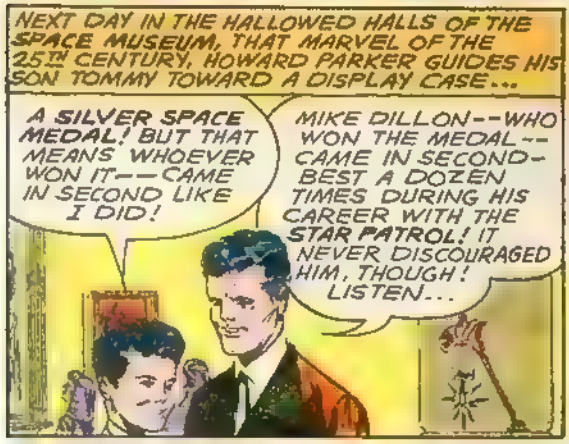
SECOND-BEST SPACEMAN!

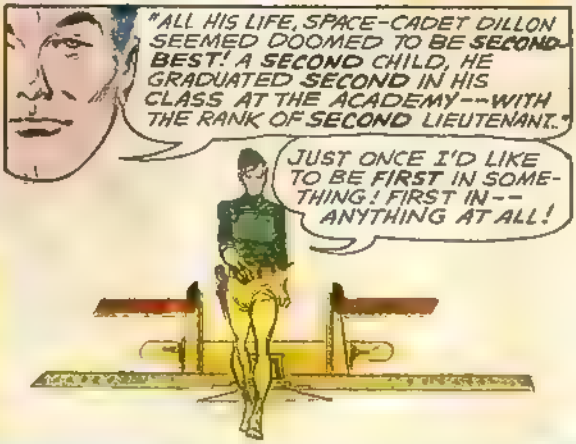
A SPACE MUSEUM STORY!

FLEET SOAPBOX JETS ROCKET ACROSS THE FINISH LINE IN THE ANNUAL JETBOX DERBY IN THE YEAR 2471...
HE BEAT ME! I CAME IN SECOND!


GOSH! I SURE WANTED THE GOLD MEDAL! WHAT GOOD'S A SECOND-BEST SILVER MEDAL?


AS HE WALKS HOMEWARD WITH HIS PARENTS, YOUNG TOMMY PARKER KNOWS THE SHARP BITE OF DISAPPOINTMENT...
THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT TIME, DEAR. DON'T LET DEFEAT DISCOURAGE YOU!
TOMORROW WHEN WE VISIT THE SPACE MUSEUM, TOMMY, I WANT YOU TO BRING ALONG YOUR SILVER MEDAL! I WON'T EXPLAIN WHY TILL THEN...


NEXT DAY IN THE HALLOWED HALLS OF THE SPACE MUSEUM, THAT MARVEL OF THE 25TH CENTURY, HOWARD PARKER GUIDES HIS SON TOMMY TOWARD A DISPLAY CASE...
A SILVER SPACE MEDAL! BUT THAT MEANS WHOEVER WON IT--CAME IN SECOND LIKE I DID!
MIKE DILLON--WHO WON THE MEDAL--CAME IN SECOND-BEST A DOZEN TIMES DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE STAR PATROL! IT NEVER DISCOURAGED HIM, THOUGH! LISTEN...


"ALL HIS LIFE, SPACE-CADET DILLON SEEMED DOOMED TO BE SECOND-BEST! A SECOND CHILD, HE GRADUATED SECOND IN HIS CLASS AT THE ACADEMY--WITH THE RANK OF SECOND LIEUTENANT."
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO BE FIRST IN SOMETHING! FIRST IN--ANYTHING AT ALL!

"HIS ODD FATE FOLLOWED HIM OUT TO THE STARS, FOR DURING THE REGULIAN WARS WHEN HE TOOK A DETAIL OF PATROLMEN ACROSS A STRETCH OF RADIATION-TORN BATTLEGROUND..."
THE REGULIANS DEPEND FOR THEIR BATTLE TACTICS ON A BRAIN MACHINE! IF WE CAN CAPTURE THAT--WE'LL HAVE WON THE WAR!

"BUT WHEN MIKE GOT TO THE CITADEL WHICH HOUSED THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN..."

TOO LATE, MIKE--K COMPANY HAS ALREADY CAPTURED THE BRAIN! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

"NATURALLY, HE WON A MEDAL FOR HIS BRAVERY BEYOND AND ABOVE THE CALL OF DUTY, BUT..."

A SILVER MEDAL! OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT I CAME IN--SECOND-BEST!

"A YEAR LATER 2ND LIEUTENANT DILLON WAS SENT SPACEWARD IN A ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED DELTA STARFLIER. HIS MISSION WAS TO PREVENT THE STAR-SUN T-PYXIDIS FROM EXPLODING TO NOVA* BY FIRING A THETA-TORPEDO INTO IT..."

T-PYXIDIS HAS NOVAED MORE THAN TEN TIMES IN THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS! WE'VE GOT TO PUT A STOP TO IT--ONCE AND FOR ALL!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A NOVA IS A SUN WHICH UNDERGOES A SUDDEN AND TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN BRIGHTNESS.

"DILLON AND HIS COMPANION HAD TO JOCKEY THEIR SHIPS TO WITHIN FIVE MINUTES FIRING RANGE OF THE MIGHTY SUN..."

THE ALLOY OF OUR TORPEDO-MISSILE HAS ONLY A FIVE-MINUTE LIFE-SPAN AFTER WE FIRE IT! IF IT ISN'T INSIDE THE SUN BY THAT TIME, IT WON'T WORK!

"EVEN AS MIKE FIRED, HIS COMPANION WAS ALREADY VEERING ABOUT, HIS OWN TORPEDO BLASTING SUNWARD..."

HE BEAT ME BY A FRACTION OF A SECOND! LOOKS AS IF I'M AN ALSO-RAN AGAIN!

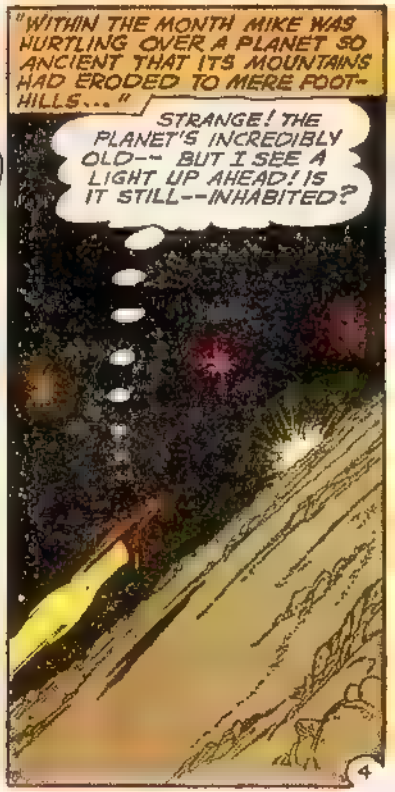
"MIKE DILLON WAS AWARDED ANOTHER SILVER MEDAL FOR HEROISM, AND IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED MANY MORE, UNTIL HE BECAME THE MOST DECORATED OFFICER IN STAR PATROL..."
TWELVE SILVER MEDALS! WHAT WOULDN'T I GIVE IF ONE OF THEM WAS MADE OF GOLD!

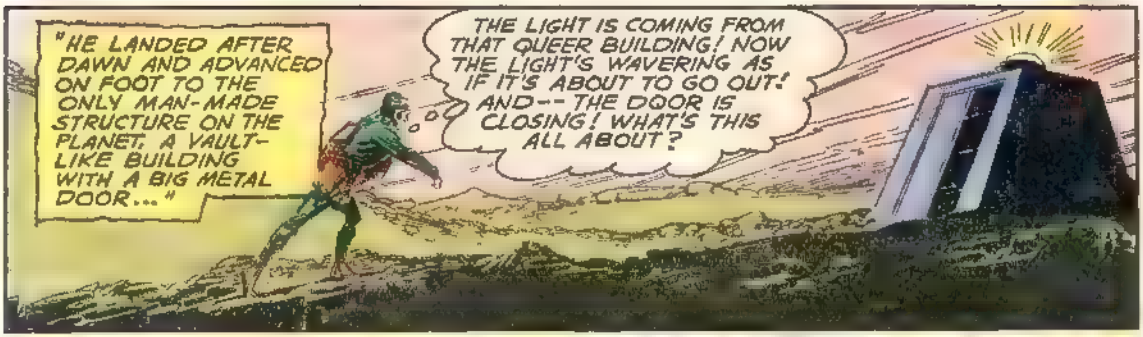
"THEN ONE DAY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DILLON--HE WASN'T A FULL SPACE-COLONEL, BEING SECOND-BEST AGAIN, YOU SEE--RECEIVED NEW ORDERS..."
YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO FIND THE FABLED LOST RACE OF LLARN, COLONEL DILLON!

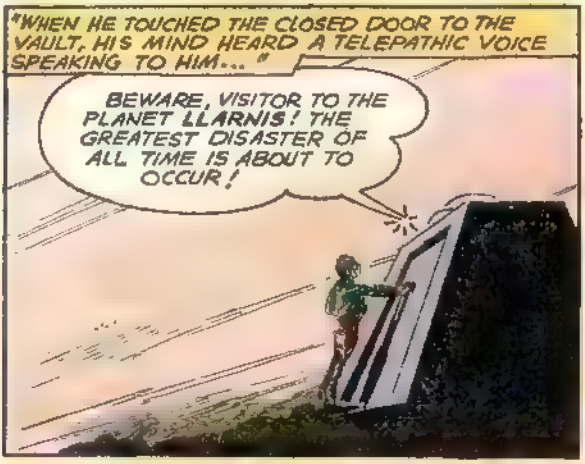
LEGEND SAYS THEY LIVED AGES AGO, AND DISAPPEARED AFTER SOME CALAMITY! IT SAYS FURTHER THAT THEY DEVELOPED AN INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL JUST BEFORE THEY PERISHED! IF WE COULD DISCOVER THAT METAL WE COULD MAKE SPACESHIPS AND INSTRUMENTS WHICH WOULD NEVER WEAR OUT!

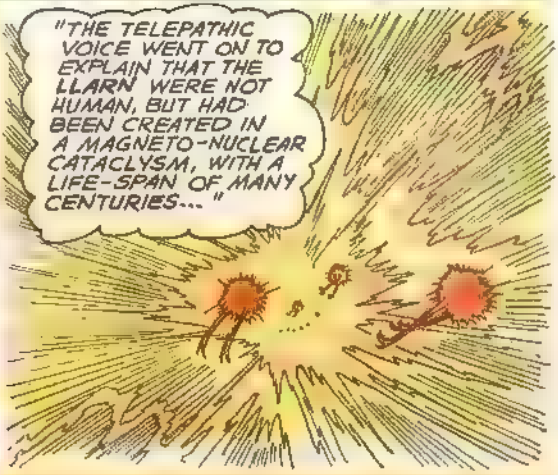
"LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DILLON RESEARCHED HIS SUBJECT FOR OVER A YEAR, BEFORE HE BEGAN HIS SEARCH..."
I'M THE ONLY ONE ASSIGNED THIS TASK--SO IT'S A CINCH I CAN'T COME IN SECOND!

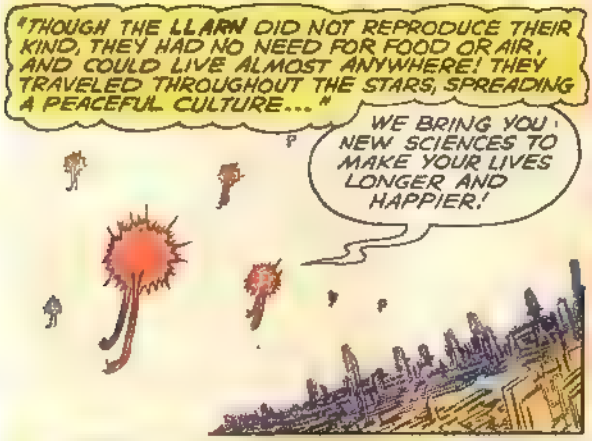
"AFTER LEARNING ALL HE COULD, HE MADE HIS DECISION..."
THERE MUST BE A PLANET NEAR ALDEBARAN, FOR JUST BEFORE THE LLARN DIED OUT, THEY ALL WENT THERE--AS IF TO CONFRONT SOME DREAD DANGER! THAT'S WHERE I'LL BEGIN MY SEARCH...

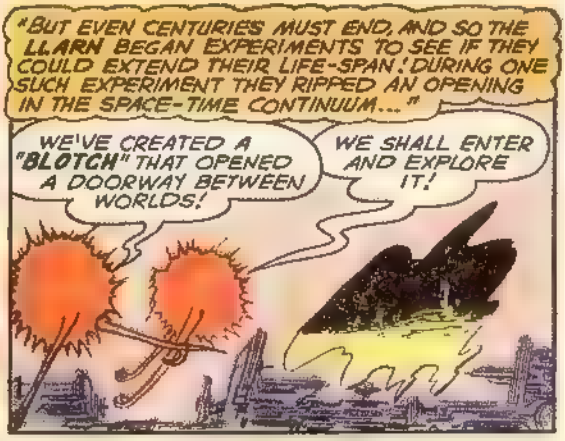

"WITHIN THE MONTH MIKE WAS HURTLING OVER A PLANET SO ANCIENT THAT ITS MOUNTAINS HAD ERODED TO MERE FOOT-HILLS..."
STRANGE! THE PLANET'S INCREDIBLY OLD-- BUT I SEE A LIGHT UP AHEAD! IS IT STILL--INHABITED?

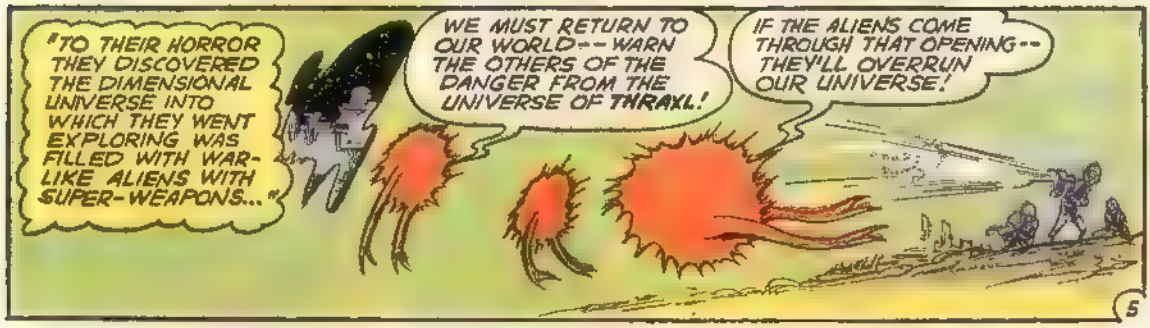

"HE LANDED AFTER DAWN AND ADVANCED ON FOOT TO THE ONLY MAN-MADE STRUCTURE ON THE PLANET, A VAULT-LIKE BUILDING WITH A BIG METAL DOOR..."
THE LIGHT IS COMING FROM THAT QUEER BUILDING! NOW THE LIGHT'S WAVERING AS IF IT'S ABOUT TO GO OUT! AND-- THE DOOR IS CLOSING! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?


"WHEN HE TOUCHED THE CLOSED DOOR TO THE VAULT, HIS MIND HEARD A TELEPATHIC VOICE SPEAKING TO HIM..."
BEWARE, VISITOR TO THE PLANET LLARNIS! THE GREATEST DISASTER OF ALL TIME IS ABOUT TO OCCUR!


"THE TELEPATHIC VOICE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE LLARN WERE NOT HUMAN, BUT HAD BEEN CREATED IN A MAGNETO-NUCLEAR CATACLYSM, WITH A LIFE-SPAN OF MANY CENTURIES..."


"THOUGH THE LLARN DID NOT REPRODUCE THEIR KIND, THEY HAD NO NEED FOR FOOD OR AIR, AND COULD LIVE ALMOST ANYWHERE! THEY TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE STARS, SPREADING A PEACEFUL CULTURE..."
WE BRING YOU NEW SCIENCES TO MAKE YOUR LIVES LONGER AND HAPPIER!


"BUT EVEN CENTURIES MUST END, AND SO THE LLARN BEGAN EXPERIMENTS TO SEE IF THEY COULD EXTEND THEIR LIFE-SPAN. DURING ONE SUCH EXPERIMENT THEY RIPPED AN OPENING IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM..."
WE'VE CREATED A "BLOTCH" THAT OPENED A DOORWAY BETWEEN WORLDS!
WE SHALL ENTER AND EXPLORE IT!


"TO THEIR HORROR THEY DISCOVERED THE DIMENSIONAL UNIVERSE INTO WHICH THEY WENT EXPLORING WAS FILLED WITH WAR-LIKE ALIENS WITH SUPER-WEAPONS..."
WE MUST RETURN TO OUR WORLD-- WARN THE OTHERS OF THE DANGER FROM THE UNIVERSE OF THRAXL!
IF THE ALIENS COME THROUGH THAT OPENING-- THEY'LL OVERRUN OUR UNIVERSE!

"THE LLARN FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER AND THIS TERRIBLE THREAT TO OUR UNIVERSE, SO..."

THE MAJORITY OF US WILL GO INTO THE THRAXL UNIVERSE -- TO FIGHT A HOLDING BATTLE TO GIVE YOU TIME TO CLOSE THE GATEWAY BETWEEN OUR WORLDS!

47 OF US SHALL REMAIN HERE TO BUILD SUCH A BARRIER!

"OUT OF THEIR NEWLY DISCOVERED INDESTRUCTIBLE METAL THEY CONSTRUCTED A MIGHTY MACHINE TO RUN FOR EONS, FUELED BY A SLAB OF IRON WHICH DEVELOPED AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE-FIELD AROUND THE BLOTCH..."

THE MACHINE WILL LAST FOREVER -- BUT THE IRON SLAB WILL WEAR OUT AFTER LONG USE!

"TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF OUR UNIVERSE ADDED TIME TO REPLACE THE FUEL WHEN IT WORE OUT, AND SO SEAL UP THE GATEWAY AGAIN, THE LLARN ENCASED THE MACHINE IN A MIGHTY VAULT..."

SO LONG AS THE MACHINE OPERATES, THE LIGHT WILL REMAIN ON AND THE DOOR OPEN!

THAT'S THE END OF THE TELEPATHIC MESSAGE FROM THE LLARN! THE LIGHT'S OUT AND THE DOOR HAS CLOSED! THAT MEANS -- THE MACHINE HAS STOPPED WORKING! THE ALIENS FROM THRAXL MAY BE COMING THROUGH THE OPENING RIGHT NOW! I COULD REPLACE THE IRON SLAB -- IF I ONLY KNEW HOW TO OPEN THE DOOR! WAIT... ANOTHER TELEPATHIC MESSAGE...

YOU MUST SUCCEED, BEING OF OUR WORLD, EVEN THOUGH YOU LACK THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRET!

THE TELEPATHIC VOICE COULDN'T TELL ME THE SECRET OF HOW TO OPEN THE DOOR, BECAUSE THEN THE ALIENS WOULD OVER-HEAR IT AND OPEN THE DOOR FROM INSIDE! ONCE THEY DO THAT -- NO FORCE COULD HOLD THEM BACK FROM CONQUERING OUR UNIVERSE!

"THE ALIENS FROM THRAXL HAD ALSO OVERHEARD THE TELEPATHIC MESSAGE, FOR AS THE MACHINE CEASED TO WORK, THEY CAME THROUGH THE GATE-WAY BETWEEN WORLDS..."

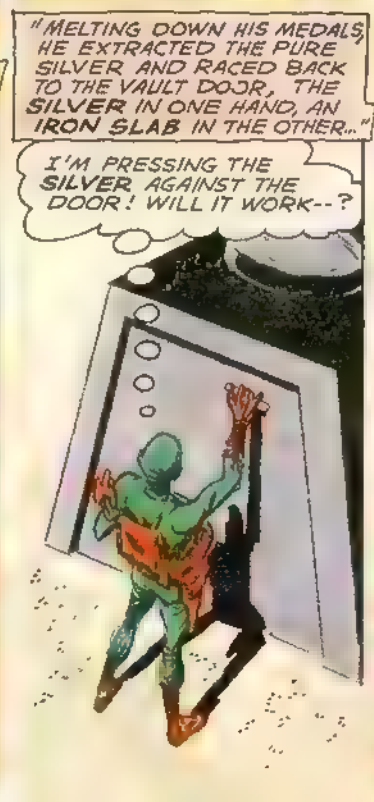
CREATURE OF THIS UNIVERSE -- WE SHALL BE FIRST THROUGH THE DOOR! YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BEAT US!

"LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DILLON FACED THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF HIS CAREER! THIS WAS ONE TIME WHEN HE DARED NOT BE SECOND-BEST..."
I MUST THINK! THERE'S A WAY TO OPEN THE DOOR-- AND I'VE GOT TO DISCOVER IT BEFORE THE ALIENS DO!

THE LLARN MUST HAVE KNOWN THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! THEY'D SURELY GIVE A VISITOR TO THEIR PLANET A CLUE OF SOME SORT! WHAT WAS IT THAT THEY DID SAY, EXACTLY? I "LACK THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRET"!

A "SUBSTANCE" IS THE CORE OF SOMETHING, ITS BASIC ELEMENT-- ELEMENT?! I WONDER IF SOME ELEMENT WILL OPEN THE DOOR? IF ONLY I HAD AN ATOMIC NUMBER-- WAIT! IN ITS ENTIRE MESSAGE, THE TELEPATHIC VOICE MENTIONED ONLY ONE NUMBER--47!

"RACING BACK TO HIS SPACE-SHIP, MIKE DILLON GRABBED ALL THE SILVER HE COULD LAY HANDS ON--HIS MEDALS..."
47 OF THE LLARN WERE LEFT IN THIS UNIVERSE! 47 IS THE ATOMIC NUMBER OF SILVER! I'LL REFINE OUT THE ALLOY METALS IN THE MEDALS BY SIMPLE CHEMISTRY...


"MELTING DOWN HIS MEDALS, HE EXTRACTED THE PURE SILVER AND RACED BACK TO THE VAULT DOOR, THE SILVER IN ONE HAND, AN IRON SLAB IN THE OTHER..."
I'M PRESSING THE SILVER AGAINST THE DOOR! WILL IT WORK--?

"ALMOST INSTANTLY THE DOOR OPENED WIDE! MIKE DILLON BARRELED INTO THE ALIENS, KNOCKING THEM SIDEWAYS! SURPRISE WAS IN HIS FAVOR."
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I WON A RACE-- AND I MEAN TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

"HE LEAPED FOR THE MACHINE AND SLIPPED THE IRON SLAB INTO PLACE..."

MADE IT! NOW THE MACHINE WILL PUT ANOTHER EONS-LONG FORCE-FIELD OVER THE GATEWAY INTO THE ALIEN WORLD!

THERE WAS ONE SILVER MEDAL MIKE DIDN'T HAVE WITH HIM, TOMMY! THIS IS IT! HE DONATED IT TO THE **SPACE MUSEUM** AFTER HE WON HIS **GOLD MEDAL**-- FOR SAVING THE UNIVERSE!

GOSH, DAD-- I JUST HAPPENED TO THINK--

IF MIKE DILLON HADN'T WON ALL THOSE **SILVER MEDALS**--HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO WIN THE **GOLD ONE!**

RIGHT, TOMMY! IT'S PROOF OF THE FACT THAT NO MATTER HOW OFTEN YOU FAIL--VICTORY CAN EVENTUALLY BE YOURS IF YOU KEEP TRYING HARD ENOUGH TO WIN!

NOW I KNOW WHY YOU ASKED ME TO BRING ALONG MY SILVER MEDAL, DAD! I'M GOING TO WEAR IT PROUDLY!

The END

8

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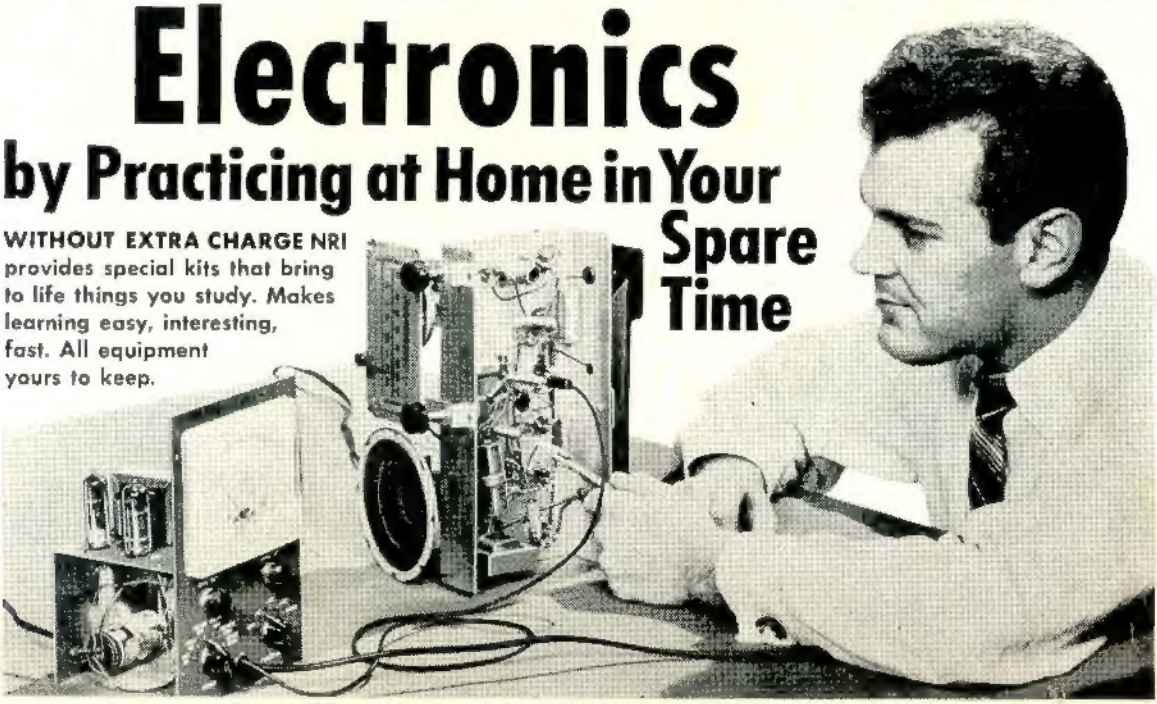

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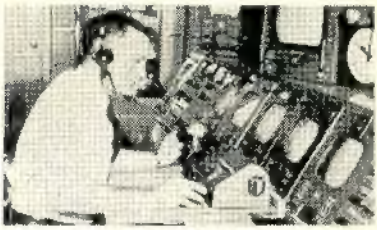

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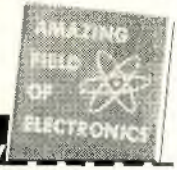

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